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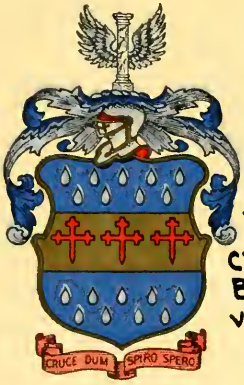

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THE

MEMOIRS

OF

Mrs. Sophia Baddeley,

LATE OF DRURY LANE THEATRE.

BY

MRS. ELIZABETH STEELE.

IN SIX VOLUMES.

VOL. V.

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THE

MEMOIRS

OF

Mrs. Sophia Baddeley.

SURPRIZED as I was at this letter, I took a day or two to weigh the ſubject in my mind, and wiſhed, before I wrote an anſwer, to ſee Lord Melbourne, as I ſhould know then better how to act. As he did not, however, come in two or three days, I wrote her word, that ſhe had ever found me ready to comply with any thing in rea-

ſon, that would afford her pleaſure, or contribute to her happineſs; and, as to her preſent requeſt, I had no objection, as ſoon as matters could be ſettled here, which muſt firſt be done, and, begged her directions and advice for that purpoſe; that I had not ſeen Lord Melbourne; that, Mr. P. was preſſing for money; and, that Lord Coleraine ſtill perſevered in his purſuit of her; but, not a word did I ſay of his application at Chelſea, or at Portſmouth. Indeed, his Lordſhip was truly troubleſome. Like Marplot, he never was at reſt. He came, and told me, he had been at Tunbridge-wells, a friend of his having ſaid ſhe was there. This intelligence I knew he had from Portſmouth, though I took no notice of it. I told his Lordſhip,

ſhip, that it was of no moment to me where he had been, and that I ſhould ſay no more on the ſubject. He declared he would find Mrs. Baddeley, if he was obliged to travel to the devil for that purpoſe. My reply was, "Go "where you pleaſe, but don't teaze "and trouble me." He ſwore he would be even with me before he died. I told him I diſregarded his threats, and adviſed him not to take any unjuſtifiable ſteps, for if he did, he would certainly repent it; that, from a man of his rank and title I had reaſon to expect the behaviour of a gentleman, and was ſorry he did not know himſelf. He now grew outrageous, d—m'd his rank and title, ſaid, neither theſe nor all the world, were any objects to him, nor did he

he care what befell him; that, he did not value Mrs. Baddeley ſo much as I might ſuppoſe; but he wiſhed to ſee her for reaſons he beſt knew, and was determined to find her, if ſhe was living. Tired with his converſation, I went upſtairs and left him.

Three weeks paſt, and no ſight of Lord Melbourne. He was not come to town; but, I received plenty of letters from Ireland, and one in anſwer to my laſt, ſaying, I had no objections to come to her, if ſhe enabled me to act right in London. In this letter, ſhe encloſed the following to Lord Melbourne, which I was to convey to him, and let her know the reſult.

" My

" My dear Lord,

" I am hurt to be under the ne-
" ceſſity of laying before your Lord-
" ſhip, the ſtate of my affairs; yet, it
" is now unavoidable. Mr. P. is become
" tireſome for want of money, having
" paid large ſums on my account, and
" I cannot bear to be ſo urged as I am
" by him. In conſequence of which,
" I ſhall remain out of town, until I
" hear from you, or that you have done,
" as far as you think proper, to diſ-
" charge what I owe. You may ar-
" range this matter with Mrs. Steele,
" who can act with Mr. P. as well as
" myſelf. Your compliance with this,
" will oblige,

" Your's, ever in affection,

Oxfordſhire. " Sophia Baddeley."
Thurſday morning.

I was

I was pleaſed at the receipt of this letter, as I knew it would anſwer two purpoſes, one with my Lord, and the other to ſhew Mr. P. who was now impatient; as it would convince him of her wiſh to pay him, and her endeavours to that end. I accordingly ſent for him, and ſhewed him the letter. He ſeemed pleaſed with it, and ſaid, "I find then, "ſhe is at your houſe in Oxfordſhire. "Had you any letters with it?" I told him not, that Mrs. Baddeley hated writing, and that ſhe had ſent it by the maid. This ſatisfied him for the preſent. He expreſſed a wiſh that Lord Coleraine could be prevailed on to advance ſome money; but, as I told him, Mrs. Baddeley did not wiſh to be under any obligations to him, and I could not venture

venture without her permiſſion, to take even ten thouſand pounds, if it was offered; he begged pardon for hinting it, only as he thought he might make her an offer, in this mad fit of love, it was a juſtice I owed myſelf to accept it, in order to diſcharge Mrs. Baddeley's debt to me. I replied, "That ſooner than "betray any confidence repoſed in me, "I would loſe every ſhilling. I do "expect a piſtol ſome day from this "mad-man, Lord Coleraine and he "may fire it, and put an end to my "exiſtence; but he ſhall never know "from me where ſhe is." "What," ſaid Mr. P. "not for a thouſand "pounds?" "No, Sir, nor for ten "thouſand," returned I, warmly, "nor "to ſave my life, if my life was at "ſtake."

" ſtake." " Tell *me*," ſaid he, " and " I will take the thouſand pounds for " you." " No, Sir," ſaid I, " not " now I know your mind." " Is ſhe in Oxfordſhire?" aſked he. " Aſk me no " more, Sir," replied I, " for I will " not inform you." " Well," ſaid Mr. P. " you are much to blame." I begged his pardon, ſaid, I did not ſee the matter in the ſame light with him; that, whilſt I thought I was acting right by my friend, I was enjoying a ſerenity of mind; and, I would do nothing to diſcompoſe it. He ſtill went on.— " Think, Mrs. Steele, what a thouſand " pounds is, and think how idle you " are in ſuch reſolves. To be plain " with you, I have ſeen his Lordſhip " this day; and, he has promiſed me

" he

" he will give it you: and, after all, " Mrs. Baddeley need not ſee him, ſhe " can eaſily be denied; and, if ſhe *does* " ſee him, what harm can ariſe between " two, who have known each other " ſo long. Don't be ſo obſtinate— " let me beg it as a favour." I told him, I ſhould be happy to oblige him in any thing reaſonable, but could not in his preſent requeſt, and nothing ſhould urge me. When he found me reſolute, he dropped the ſubject, ſaying, I was my own enemy, and that he would go to him, for that he was now waiting for him. I was not well pleaſed at Mr. P's. interference, and told him, as he knew my mind fully on this ſubject, if he ever aſked me again to tell him where ſhe was, I would not ſee him

afterwards. He aſſured me, upon his honour, he would never trouble me again upon the ſubject; begged my pardon for ſaying ſo much as he had done, and politely took his leave.

The poſt-man brought me a letter from a friend at Saliſbury, and wiſhed to ſee me; it was to tell me, that a gentleman had been with him, and offered him a guinea, if he would bring him every letter addreſſed to me, through the poſt; that he might only ſee the hand-writing of the direction, and the poſt-mark; which he refuſed. I gave the man half a crown for his honeſty, and told him he had my full conſent to take that letter to him, and ſee how far his curioſity would carry him; but, not

to

to ſuffer him to open it; and, that he might take the guinea for himſelf, but that he muſt not ſay I knew of it; and, when he had ſo done, would have him come and tell me. He did, and this gentleman was Lord Coleraine; and, I believe no man but Lord Coleraine, would have had ſuch a thought. The poſt-man got the guinea. His Lordſhip ſaid, that was not the hand he wiſhed to ſee, but he took down the mark of *Saliſbury*, and returned him the letter, with a promiſe of a guinea for every letter he ſhould ſo bring. This curioſity coſt Lord Coleraine a journey, (and this I foreſaw) for he ſet off the next day for Saliſbury, and enquired at all the different inns. On his return, he told this to Mr. P. from whom I

afterwards had it. I saw the propriety of not having my letters directed home. I *do* think I was myself watched; as I never went out but I had a follower, except to the post-office; which I took care to prevent, by taking water at Whitehall, when I could see if any boat was after me. Thus did I escape any one's knowing when I carried my letters, and as none at the General Post-office knew me, and they were not addressed to me in my own name, there was no danger of their stopping, or examining, any letters of mine, had they been so disposed. Lord Coleraine made no secret of his pursuits, for he told all his friends, and all Mrs. Baddeley's, that she was gone off, and was not to be found. This was but a nine days wonder.

der. Some came to enquire of me what grounds Lord Coleraine had for his report; but, as I refuſed to anſwer any thing, where his Lordſhip was concerned, I was not importuned. I informed her friends, ſhe was well, and would be at home ſhortly, and happy to ſee them; but, that ſhe did not chuſe to ſay where ſhe was, that Lord Coleraine might not be troubleſome to her. This was always a cauſe of laughter, that poor Gaby, ſhould be ſo thrown out in his purſuit.

The poſt now brought me a letter from Mrs. Baddeley, in anſwer to mine; wherein I acquainted her with the pains Lord Coleraine had taken to find her out, and the offers he made me, to

ſay where ſhe was. She thanked me for my conduct, ſaid, neither Gaby nor his title was of any moment to her now; that ſhe had ſuffered ſo much, on his account, as not to wiſh to ſee him more, and hoped his being kept in the dark would be a ſufficient mortification for his cruel treatment: that ſhe was then happy, and would if poſſible, keep herſelf ſo; and, that ſhe deſpiſed him as much at that time, as ever ſhe loved him.

Lord Coleraine kept up a correſpondence with my friend, that lived at Portſmouth, who began to be uneaſy about his wife, having written to her, and received no anſwer. The letter he wrote to her, I anſwered, and told him,

that

that Mrs. Baddeley, was ſo cloſely purſued by Lord Coleraine, that ſhe thought proper to go a little way out of town, to avoid him, and had prevailed on his wife to accompany her; that ſhe would be back in a few days, when I would deliver her his letter: that, in her abſence, I looked after his houſe and ſervants, and that if he was in want of any caſh, I would remit him what he had occaſion for. He wrote back to me, blamed his wife for leaving his houſe, without his knowledge and peremptorily inſiſted on my ſaying where ſhe was, unleſs ſhe returned, in two days, from the date of his letter. This put me to my wit's end, to know what anſwer to give him. In the interim, came Lord Melbourne, enquiring for his dear

dear love, and on my ſaying, ſhe was out of town, deſired I would go and fetch her, for he muſt ſee her immediately. I told him, ſhe was a long way off. "Where?" aſked he. "At Scar-"borough," ſaid I. "And who is it with "her?" ſaid his Lordſhip. I told him, a female relation of mine, my daughter, her maid, and a man. He looked angry and diſappointed, and enquired the reaſon of her going. I told his Lordſhip, that it was to avoid Lord Coleraine, who was in purſuit of her, ſwearing like a mad-man, that ſhe ſhould live with him, and him only; "and if your "Lordſhip knew," continued I, "how "much he infeſted this houſe, you "would pity me, and ſay, ſhe had act-"ed properly." He aſked me, "why

"I did

" I did not keep the door ſhut, and " have her denied?" " Denied," cried I, " my Lord, a denial was to little pur- " poſe; he would watch at the door like " a dog, and whenever it was opened, " would ſlip in, and go up-ſtairs. He " offered me a thouſand pounds, to ſay " where ſhe was, and I was fearful, he " would bribe my ſervants, to let him " in at improper times." Then, why did I let her go without me? he ſaid. I told his Lordſhip, that owing to his ſtay- ing in the country, longer than was ex- pected, and not having given her any money, Mr. P. was very preſſing for ſome, and his frequent viſits, on that ſcore, made Mrs. Baddeley unhappy; and having ſome fears on the ſubject, this together, with a wiſh to get out of

Lord

Lord Coleraine's way, induced her to leave town, and to keep things quiet at home, was my reaſon for not going with her. He enquired how much money Mr. P. wanted, "I replied," "What "your Lordſhip can ſpare." He ſaid, he had no money with him, but would conſider of it, and ſee me again, in a day or two. I took this opportunity to give him Mrs. Baddeley's letter. He read it, put it in his pocket, and ſaid, ſhe was in Oxfordſhire. "Yes, my "Lord," returned I, "when that let-"ter was written, ſhe had been there a "fortnight; but, Lord Coleraine, found "her out, and went after her; and, "this induced her, to retire further "off." "Well," replied his Lord-ſhip, "ſend for her home; this letter is

"for

" for money, and money ſhe ſhall have. " Sure ſhe muſt be a good deal in debt, " to go away on that account!" I ſaid, " ſhe was, and that his Lord- " ſhip's bounty to her, had led her into " it; whereas, his having withdrawn " his hand of late, ſhe was ſcarce able " to ſupport the expence of houſe-keep- " ing, independent of her dreſs, and " other things." " Well," ſaid he again, " ſend for her home and, en- " quire, what is the leaſt ſum Mr. P. " can ſhift with. I will ſee, what I can " do to extricate her." I told him I would, and we parted.

As ſoon as he was gone, I ſent for Mr. P. and talked with him on the ſub- ject; he informed me, he could not do with

with leſs than one thouſand five hundred pounds; but if Lord Melbourne thought that more than he could ſpare, he deſired me to ſay, he would make ſhift with one thouſand pounds; but that was the leaſt, and that he muſt have more in a little time, for he was very ſhort of caſh. I flattered myſelf now that matters would be made eaſy by Lord Melbourne; for, though I had no expectation that he would diſcharge the whole; yet, as Mr. P. had undertaken to ſettle all ſhe owed, and would be ſatisfied with a thouſand pounds, I truſted all would be well, on this account. But the misfortune was, that though Lord Melbourne came and though I told him what Mr. P. had ſaid, he did not keep his word. His

Lordſhip's

Lordſhip's anſwer was, that Mr. P. muſt wait *his* time; that the town was full of Mrs. Baddeley's elopement; that different conjectures were paſſed, and that Lord Coleraine, from what I told him, might ſpread thoſe reports he heard. I told his Lordſhip, that I was ſorry, I had ſaid any thing to Mr. P. on the ſubject; for, that now he would be more out of humour. Lord Melbourne ſaid, he did not regard his humour, that he muſt wait, and ſhould wait. I then hinted the expence of Mrs. Baddeley's journeys, and the time ſhe was abſent from home; but, not a guinea did he offer me; ſaid he, however, in a little time, he would do every thing ſhe might wiſh; and, he was ſorry, it did not ſuit him at preſent. To keep Mr. P. quiet, how-

ever, I borrowed three hundred pounds, and this, with the two hundred I had, made five hundred pounds. I then ſent for him, told him Lord Melbourne was at preſent ſo circumſtanced, that he could not advance, Mrs. Baddeley any money; but, that having five hundred pounds of my own, if that would aſſiſt him, it was at his ſervice; and, that I would try, and do better for him ſoon. He ſeemed well pleaſed with this; but ſaid, that Lord Melbourne did not behave well; and, if he was Mrs. Baddeley, he would ſee him at the devil, before he would return to him, unleſs he firſt paid every debt ſhe owed; that, ſince I had undertaken her affairs, his Lordſhip had acted d—n'd ſhabbily; and that if I would take his advice, it would

be,

be, to perſwade her to ſtay where ſhe was; which he ſhould apprehend would mortify him, and bring him to a compliance. "The words of theſe Lords," continued he, "are worth nothing; "and, I am of opinion, that whatever "he does, he will do with a meanneſs, "you little expect. I am quite hurt, "to take this money of you, knowing "the good diſpoſition, with which you "offer it; but, my want of caſh is ſuch, "that I muſt in this inſtance, run-"counter to my feelings and my natu-"ral temper." I then aſked him if I ſhould write to Mrs. Baddeley, and adviſe her, not to come to town for ſome days? He replied, "Do; and ſhould "you be in want of money, ſend to me, "and you ſhall have it, or any thing

"elſe in my power to accommodate "you with; for I ſhall never forget this "civility of your's.—As to his Lord-"ſhip, he would not care if I was in a "jail." I did not tell him how indifferent Lord Melbourne had expreſſed himſelf concerning him, for he was angry enough without it. He took his leave, urging me to write to her, and if poſſible, prevail with her to ſtay ſome little time where ſhe was.

I now received a letter from my friend's huſband, begging, by the return of poſt, to know where his wife was, and where he might find her, for ſee her he muſt; as, Lord Coleraine had made him very uneaſy. I was much at a loſs how to act, or what to

ſay;

ſay; I had told a good many untruths already, and I found I ſhould be obliged to tell many more. Thus does good nature and a friendly diſpoſition draw a perſon into a variety of diſagreeable ſituations; but, I had promiſed Mrs. Baddeley I would not ſay where ſhe was, and I was determined to keep my word with her, at the expence of every thing. Had I written word to Portſmouth, ſaying where ſhe was, Lord Coleraine would ſoon have known it; and had I refuſed to ſend a proper anſwer, or ſent an evaſive one, his reſentment might have carried him to improper lengths; as a foreigner, he might have left his wife, and returned to his own country. I, therefore, ſuffered one poſt to ſlip, and then wrote

him word, that Mrs. Baddeley and his wife were at Brighthelmſtone, not ſuppoſing he would go there. On the receipt of my letter, however, he ſet off for that place, where he ſent for Lord Coleraine; but, not finding them there, they agreed to give each other the earlieſt intelligence, in caſe either of them found out where they were. This I was afterwards informed of. My friend's huſband went off poſt to Margate, and Lord Coleraine to Weymouth, in purſuit of them; the ladies having once ſaid they would go ſhortly to one of thoſe places. On this gentleman's return to London, he came to me in a moſt violent rage, and ſwore, he would larn his wife *deſcription*; (he meant *ſcripture*;) and, would beat her, and make her

her obedient to his will. I laughed within my teeth exceedingly; and, not making any reply, he vowed with many oaths, that if I did not immediately tell him where his wife was, he would blow my brains out, for he had come prepared, and had piſtols in his pocket. "Come "then," ſaid I, "pull out your piſ- "tols; give me one of them, and let "me have a fair chance for my life, "and I will forget my ſex, and fire "with you, as long as I can keep my "feet, and you are able to load them." When he found me thus diſpoſed, he talked no more of his piſtols, nor did he take them from his pocket. I told him, that I deſpiſed his threats; that, I knew, not where they were, nor ſhould I know till after the receipt of another letter,

letter. I was not eaſy, however, about the piſtols, and wiſhed to have hold of one in my own defence. I kept up my ſpirit; and, obſerving vengeance in his countenance, I drew near the poker, and the bell, which were the only inſtruments within my reach. I aſſured him, that his wife was gone only to accompany Mrs. Baddeley, not in any clandeſtine way, as he ſuppoſed; but, to keep up her ſpirits, and that he would be put to no expence for her journey. "Spence!" exclaimed he with equal rage, "Vat is dat? D—m the ſpence!" He vanted his wife.—I aſked him, if he had been home? He ſaid, "No, I "can no look at my ouſe, ven my "vife is not dare." I was glad of this, as he did not know how long ſhe had been

been abſent. I begged to ſee his piſtols; he took out one; I admired it; aſked if it was mounted with ſilver? He replied, "Yes." I begged to look at it, ſaying, it was the handſomeſt I had ever ſeen. He put it into my hands, to look at it, but ſaid, "take care, for "it was ſcharged." I took it, ſeized him by the collar, preſented it at him, and declared, "by the G—d that made "me, ſtamping my foot on the ground, "as you have put me in fear of my life, "if you do not immediately give me the "other piſtol, you ſhall have the contents "of this through your head." He trembled like a mad-man, in preſence of one who raves like himſelf, as all violent and paſſionate men do, when they are overpowered; he ſaid he had no other,

and

and tried to take the piſtol from me. "Turn out your pockets," ſaid I. He turned them out, and finding he had no other, I threw the one I had, through the glaſs, out of the window into the ſtreet; and it went off as it fell, but no accident happened. I looked out, and ſaw it taken up by a chairman, who ran off with it. He looked at me with a wild aſtoniſhment, and his tongue ſeemed wreſted in it's utterance; for, he ſtood motionleſs, and ſilent as a ſtatue. I bad him beware how he took ſuch liberties with me in future; and, if he was at all troubleſome in this affair, I would proſecute him for threatening my life; that, if his *wife* had offended him, *I* had not, nor did I ſee the *vaſt* impropriety of her going a little journey with a female friend,

friend, during his abſence from home, when I had undertaken the care of his houſe. He then begged my pardon, ſaid his mind was hurt, as he had a thouſand different thoughts in his head; that his wife was young, and might be led into things he ſhould diſlike, and ſhe might repent of; that, he had reaſon to ſuppoſe all was not well; that there was ſome hidden myſtery at the bottom, and a great deal to the like effect. As I found he would not return to Portſmouth, till he had ſeen his wife, I knew not what to do. I thought, if I could get rid of him for a couple of days, in that time I might contrive matters; with this view, I told him they might be at Tunbridge, for I knew Mrs. Baddeley wiſhed to go there ſome little time

time ſince. At this, he ſaid he would ſet off for that place in the morning, and if he did not find her there, he would advertize her. When he was gone, I ſent for Mr. P. and told him, I had a confidence to repoſe in him, which, as a friend and a gentleman, he muſt ſwear he would not betray; and, at the ſame time, ſaid, he muſt promiſe me not to be offended at a little deception, I had been under the neceſſity of carrying on. He promiſed me on his ſoul and honour he would not, but would keep my ſecret faithfully. I then told him of Mrs. Baddeley's being in Ireland, and the whole of what had paſſed, except her declaration to continue there. To this he was very attentive, and ſaid, he was glad that ſhe

was

was so far out of the way of Lord Coleraine; for, he was convinced he could not have a good heart, or love her, or he would pay her debts. I related also to him what had passed between me and my friend's husband; he smiled, and said he was a desperate man; but, that I had acted with a noble and a becoming spirit. He advised me to go to Ireland and fetch Mrs. Baddeley, and take this gentleman with me; "For I "apprehend," said he, "he will never "be easy till he gets his wife;" and, he promised me, that he would take care of things in my absence, and would accommodate me with any money I might want for the journey; and wished me to lose no time, but to set off on his return from Tunbridge, and travel night

and day, till I got there. I told him, I had about ſixty pounds, which I thought would be ſufficient. "Far "from it;" replied he, "it will be im- "proper to let this mad-man pay any "thing, leſt he ſhould upbraid his "wife with the expence: to enable "you, therefore, to do the thing hand- "ſomely, I will let you have a hundred "pounds. I dread," continued he, "his going with you; but, as you are "a woman of ſpirit, there is leſs fear: "take my advice, and put a pair of "piſtols in your pocket. As ſoon as he "returns from Tunbridge ſend for me, "and I will appear to drop in as by ac- "cident, and ſee how matters go; but, "keep a cloſe mouth, and by no means "let him know where you are going,

"leſt

" leſt it ſhould get abroad, and Lord " Coleraine ſhould hear of it; for, as " they have promiſed to acquaint each " other, what you tell him, may reach " his Lordſhip." I thanked him for his advice, and his readineſs to aſſiſt me, and he left me with ſaying, he would take care of every thing in my abſence, and hoped, that if I found it neceſſary to ſtay a few days longer in Ireland than I propoſed, I would not mind it, but write to him, and he would act in every reſpect as I wiſhed him. " Perhaps, Colonel Lutterell," continued he, " may advance her ſome money; " if he does, and you are abſent a " month, I ſhall not think the time " long." I told him, that if Colonel Lutterell did give Mrs. Baddeley any money,

he ſhould have it. It was ſettled, that I ſhould direct to him at his coffee-houſe, that he might not be ſuppoſed to be in the plot.—" I think, however, " it would be prudent," added he; " to " ſee Lord Melbourne before you go; " though, upon ſecond thoughts, it " will be better not; as it will keep his " Lordſhip in ſuſpence, and may be " of uſe in the end; if not, he will " be only made, what I truſt he is al- " ready.—I would have you get all " things ready, that you may have no- " thing to do when this mad Dane " comes back, but to ſet off; and, that " you may not be traced out of town, " I will lend you my poſt-chaiſe and " horſes, for the firſt ſtage, and will

" ride

" ride with you, as far as St. Alban's,
" and ſee you are not watched."

I now prepared for my journey, and the next morning but one, came back my Daniſh friend, from Tunbridge, more full of trouble about his wife than before; he, told me, he had not met with her; but, that he had obtained intelligence of two ladies, anſwering their deſcription, who had left Tunbridge, for Dover, on their way to France; and that he was diſtracted, and ruined, and would hang himſelf. I ſoothed him, and begged him not to be ſo unhappy about his wife, for that he would ſoon hear of her. He then ſtamped, and ſwore, and ſaid, he would murder both her and Mrs. Baddeley, as ſoon as he

could get ſight of them. "Hold," ſaid I, "and hear reaſon, and you may "ſtill be happy. For yeſterday, came "a gentleman to fetch me to them." "Vere, how, and in vat place?" he cried. "Be patient," ſaid I, "and we "will go together." "Is it von mile "or ten?" ſaid he. "Never mind," replied I, "the diſtance; it is but a few "hours ride, and the journey will be "pleaſant." I ſent for Mr. P. but did not leave this gentleman to himſelf a minute, leſt he ſhould ſend to Lord Coleraine. I wrote to Lord Melbourne, ſaid, I was going to fetch Mrs. Baddeley, who had ſent for me, and was not well. Mr. P. came, and I told him before this gentleman, that I was glad he dropped in, as I was going out of town, for a day,

a day or two, thinking the air might be of ſervice to me, and that I intended to take this gentleman with me, who, was a particular friend. Mr. P. aſked, how far I was going; I ſaid, about twenty miles; he then begged he might be of the party, and that his poſt-chaiſe and four ſhould be at my ſervice. The Daniſh gentleman, ſeemed pleaſed with this, and ſaid, "Oh! How vill my "vife zoon ſtare to ſee me!" Yes, thought I, ſhe will *ſtare* indeed, but not ſo *ſoon* as you ſuppoſe; let me, however, get you out of London, and then I ſhall fear for nothing. Mr. P. went to order his carriage, and I kept my gentleman in talk, till we heard it at the door; he had ordered it to be ready, when he left home. He put the hundred

dred pounds into my hand, and we ſet off for Ireland; my ſervants, however, did not know, but that I was going to my houſe in Oxfordſhire. When we reached Saint Alban's and alighted at the inn, my companion in the chaiſe, (for Mr. P. rode on horſe-back,) jumped out firſt, forgetting his uſual politeneſs, and left me to get out how I could. He ran into the houſe, in hopes of ſeeing his wife; but, I ſoon undeceived him, by ſaying, ſhe was not there, and that we had further to go, before he could ſee her. "If this be the caſe," ſaid Mr. P. "I muſt take my leave of "you, and let you purſue your journey "by yourſelves; for, I have buſineſs in "town and muſt return." Of courſe he left us. My companion ſaid, he

was

was much diſappointed, for he hoped to ſee the ladies. "So you will," replied I, "if you travel on with me." After a little refreſhment, a poſt-chaiſe and four was ordered, and we went on for Coventry; but I only named the next ſtage. When we came to that place, he aſked if they were there. I told him not, and that we muſt travel all night, and deſired he would not leave me. Mr. P. before he left me, put a pocket piſtol into my hand, which he ſaid was lock'd, and bid me take an opportunity, to ſhew it to my companion, as it might be a means of keeping him in temper. When we got into the chaiſe, I took out my piſtol, and ſaid, I hoped we ſhould not be ſtopped on the road, for that I had reſolution enough,

enough not to be robbed; and that the firſt fellow, that preſumed to interrupt our journey, ſhould feel the force of it. The ſight of the piſtol kept him quiet. He ſaid, I was fitter for a man, than a woman; talked all night of his wife, and hoped day-light would give him a ſight of her. He was very inquiſitive about the place, I was carrying him to; but I never reſolved him, conſtantly telling him, that he would ſoon ſee her. Thus was his expectation kept alive, and he thought every village and every town would be the end of his journey. We travelled all night, and the morning brought us to Coventry. When I told him, we had further to go ſtill, he began to rave and ſtorm; ſaid, he would go no further, that I was going

ing to carry him to *de devil*; that he would go to *de Commiſſaire*, meaning a magiſtrate, and tell him how I uſed him. I told him if he made much more noiſe, I would ſwear he was mad, and have a ſtrait-jacket put on him; but, that if he behaved quietly, I would ſoon bring him where his wife was. Though I felt, in ſome meaſure, for his ſituation, and pitied him; yet, as he had put me in fear of my life, I indulged the pleaſing thought of retaliation, and was not a little diverted, at finding my fiery ſpark ſo much under my command. I had ſtill my apprehenſions, that if I told him where I was going, he would ſome way contrive to let Lord Coleraine know it, and therefore, was determined to keep up my ſpirits, and brave it out; knowing

that

that I could have the assistance of the post-boys, if I stood in need of them. We had four horses, all the way to Chester, and travelled night and day till we got there. When we reached Chester, he cried out, "Vat place is dis? "Are you going to take me to de East- "Indies, over land? Vor my part, I "know noting of England, and you "may take me to a place from whence "I cannot return." I replied, where-ever he was going, I would go with him, and he need not fear. "Vear!" exclaimed he, "I am now past all vear. "Go where you vill, I vill go vid "you." At Chester they advised me, if I wished for expedition, to take six horses and go over the mountains. As we rose the hills, he swore I was carry-

ing

ing him to Italy, and that we were croſſing the Alps. I told him, we were in Wales. "Vales," ſaid he, "vat vor a "place is dat? Is dis not England?" I told him not, and aſked him if he had never heard of the Welch? "Velch," ſaid he, "Vat has my vife to do vid "de Velch peple?" I told him that her father, mother, and all her friends were welch. "So den ſhe is vid her velch "friends; d—mn her velch friends, that "could get her to come ſo long a vay; "vor my part, I am tired, and hope our "journey vill be ſoon over, as I ſhall "go mad; vor now I am out of Eng-"land, and do not know vere de "mountains vill carry me." To have ſix horſes to draw us over them, was to him ſurprizing. When we began to riſe

the mountain, called Penmanmawr, he ſaid, we ſhould not get over that, if we had ſix horſes more, and if they pulled to the day of reſurrection. He adviſed getting out to walk, which I fooliſhly accquieſced in; for, on going over the ſide of this mountain, where part of the wall was fallen down, and the carriage being at ſome diſtance behind, he laid hold of my arm, and ſwore he would throw me down that precipice into the ſea, if I did not tell him how much further we had to go. I ſaid, "Not far," but, this did not ſatisfy him; he ſtill held me, and made uſe of many bitter oaths, which alarmed me; and ſeeing my danger, (for the ſea was juſt under us, and ſome hundreds of yards to the bottom,) I got my other hand into my pocket,

pocket, took out my piſtol, and clapped it to his breaſt, and bad him let go his hold, or he was a dead man. He quitted, and I ran back to the carriage, and he after me; ſaying, "Do not run "avay from me; vorgive me, vor I "am a diſtracted man, and ſo tired, that "I could lay down and die." The carriage ſoon met us, and I told him, I would quit it no more, that he might have no further opportunity of treating me ill. We got at laſt to Holy-head, where I hired a veſſel to ourſelves, the packet not ſailing for two days. At the ſight of the ſea, he aſked me if I meant to tranſport him; I told him I did, for that his wife was in Ireland, and we ſhould ſoon be there, for ſhe was at Colonel Lutterell's. He never was more

aſtoniſhed in his life, ſaid it was well I did not tell him before, as he ſhould have done me ſome miſchief. I now began to reaſon with him, and adviſed him not to be diſpleaſed with his wife, for Mrs. Baddeley perſwaded her to go, ſaying ſhe ſhould be back in fourteen days; that they did not know of our coming, as no poſt could travel ſo faſt as we had. When at Holy-head, a blind man, with a harp, played us a tune, which he ſaid, a lady from London had taught him; this was Mrs. Baddeley, namely, *Where does my lover hide, &c.* I was ſo delighted with it, that I ſung it, and the man played it ſweetly. But this raſh and cruel Dane took the man's harp from him, deſtroyed the ſtrings, then jumped upon the body of it, and broke it all to pieces.

pieces. I was angry with him, for ſo doing, and the poor man cried bitterly. I enquired of the harper the value of his inſtrument, and told him I would pay for it. "Pay de devil;" cried my relentleſs fellow-traveller. "The ſcoun-"drel's muſick vas my vife's tune, and "he played it to inſult me." As I could not perſwade him to the contrary, I contented myſelf with paying the poor harper for his inſtrument; and, giving him a trifle over, he was happy. Juſt before we embarked, a pretty genteel lady, apparently big with child, addreſſed me, begged my pardon for the liberty ſhe took, but as ſhe was going to Ireland, her time of reckoning was out, and ſhe did not know how ſoon ſhe might be taken in labour, requeſted a

paſſage with me in my veſſel. I conſented chearfully to this, and took ſome comfortable things with me, in caſe ſuch an accident ſhould happen. This young woman was a Millener, in Parliament-ſtreet, Dublin. We had a very good paſſage, were over in ſix hours and a half, but ſhe was very ſick, and though I was not much better myſelf, I beſtowed every attention on her in my power. When we went on ſhore, this young woman was inſtantly ſurrounded, and huſsled, as I thought, by near fifty ill-looking fellows. I flew to her aſſiſtance; but, my fellow-traveller would have perſwaded me to leave her to herſelf, and go in ſearch of his wife and Mrs. Baddeley. As I could not ſurmize the cauſe of this treatment, I determined

I would

I would not quit her, till I ſaw her out of trouble. I begged to know what ſhe had done, or what crime ſhe had committed. The Iriſhmen ſaid, I ſhould preſently ſee what they would be at. She was conducted to the Cuſtom-houſe, and there charged with having a great deal of run lace about her. She declared ſhe had not, but was not believed. I then ſtepped forward, repreſented her ſituation, and inſiſted upon it, that ſhe ſhould not be ſo frightened, as her life might be in danger. She fainted away, and I grew angry, and ſaid, though I was in a ſtrange country, and unacquainted with the laws, yet, in the preſent ſtate of things, humanity ought to be ſhewn, and I would defend her at the riſk of my life. "O," ſaid the fellows,

lows, " we will *deliver* you preſently; " let us ſtrip her firſt." " Do," ſaid I, " at your peril. I am no ſmuggler, " but a lady on a viſit to Colonel Lut- " terell, and am not aſhamed to tell " you who I am." " I beg pardon," ſaid one of them, " but ſhe muſt be ſtripped." " Then," ſaid I, " if it " muſt be done, ſend for a woman, and " let her go into ſome room for the " purpoſe." She now came to herſelf, and inſiſted on not being ſearched, declaring ſhe had nothing about her, and offering to ſwear it, if required; but, this would not do; ſearched ſhe muſt be. My fellow-traveller ſwore and raved like a mad-man, and wiſhed the woman at the devil, for detaining us; but, I was ſo convinced of her inno-

cence,

cence, that I determined to ſtand by her. Three women at laſt appeared, and being ordered to ſearch her, took her into a room, and I went with them; and, to my wonderful ſurpriże, they ſoon delivered this lady of her burden; for they took from her, not a child, but a bandage, that went round her waiſt, that contained three hundred pounds-worth of lace. I was now vexed to the ſoul, aſhamed of my conduct, and begged pardon for my credulity; and, did not eſcape the upbraidings of my fellow-traveller. The conſequence of this piece of kindneſs was, that my box was taken to the Cuſtom-houſe, and forty yards of ſilk, which I had ignorantly brought over in it, (not knowing

that

that ſilk was prohibited) as a preſent to Mrs. Baddeley, was taken from me.

As ſoon as we were releaſed from this embarraſſment, we ſet off in a poſt-chaſe for Lutterell's town, which was but a few miles from Dublin. In the way, I uſed every argument I was miſtreſs of, to perſwade my fellow-traveller not to treat his wife ill; and he promiſed he would not. When we reached the park gate, which was about a mile from the manſion, he got out, and ſwore he would not go to the houſe, but would ſtay there, and bad me ſend his wife to him in the chaiſe: ſo much did I wiſh to ſee Mrs. Baddeley and my friend, that I would not conteſt this matter with him, provided he would return

turn with her to the houſe, after he had ſeen her; which he aſſured me he would do. I met our man in the way, who told me the ladies were well, and would be in tranſports to ſee me; that, he was ſent to enquire if there were any letters from me; that, my name was never mentioned, but Mrs. Baddeley wept, unhappy at my abſence. On my arrival at the houſe, I enquired for Colonel Lutterell, and was told that he was not at home; however, I jumped out of the chaiſe, and deſired the ſervant to ſhew me to the ladies. As ſoon as Mrs. Baddeley ſaw me, no pen can deſcribe her joy; mine was equal to her's, and my child and friend ſo ſurprized, ſo elated, and ſo happy, that I was preſently on the floor; one kiſſing my face,

the

the other my neck, and another my hands; in ſhort, they put it out of my power to ſpeak a word for ſome time. At laſt, I made ſhift to tell my friend, that I had brought her huſband with me, but that I could not prevail on him to come to the houſe, till he had ſeen her; that he was waiting for her at the park-gate, and that ſhe muſt get into the chaiſe and go to him; that he was angry at her coming without his knowledge, but, that I would accompany her to him. "No," ſaid Mrs. Baddeley, hanging round my neck, "I have now "got you again, my dear Steele, and "nothing ſhall ever part us, even for "an inſtant. John ſhall go with her, "with our compliments, and beg him "to come here." John got up behind

the

the chaiſe, and back it went. As ſoon as my fellow-traveller ſaw his wife, he began to upbraid her, with ſaying, ſhe had led him a pretty dance; but, that as he had now got her, ſhe ſhould never return to Colonel Lutterell's, whilſt he lived, and ordered the boys to drive him to Dublin. John went with them, and I was unhappy till his return. He brought me a letter from my friend, ſaying, her huſband had made the deuce of a noiſe at firſt, but was at laſt a little pacified; that, unleſs I meant to return with them, they were to embark for England the next day; and, as I had brought him out, unprepared for ſuch a journey, he muſt deſire me to lend him thirty pounds, to take him back; and begged my anſwer in the

morning. Colonel Lutterell, with Colonel Smith, who had been to Dublin on buſineſs, now returned, and I was received by him in the moſt polite and friendly manner. He was happy at my arrival, particularly as he knew it would make Mrs. Baddeley ſo. He then enquired for our friend, and was made acquainted with every thing the reader has been told. He ſaid, he would go to them in the morning, and try if he could not prevail on them to return, and ſtay a few days with him. We were elegantly entertained that evening, and Mrs. Baddeley aſſured me it was always the ſame, for he kept a noble table. Colonel Lutterell hoped I was come to continue with him. I told him not, and that I muſt hurry back as ſoon as I could.

could. He vowed, however, I ſhould not go for three months, let what would happen. I had not a wiſh to return with the perſon I came with and his wife, as I had trouble enough with him in coming there, and therefore I determined to ſend him the thirty pounds he wanted. The money was ſent the next morning, and an affectionate anſwer returned from my friend, with a deſire to ſee me and Mrs. Baddeley, before they left Dublin; with her compliments and thanks to the Colonel, and Colonel Smith, for their polite behaviour to her. Mrs. Baddeley was very deſirous of ſleeping with me the night I came, which Colonel Lutterell acquieſced in, for that night only; ſo I plainly ſaw how matters were. When we were alone, ſhe told

me the Colonel had been very kind to her; that she had an affection for him, and was determined to continue with him, if I would stay with her. "I "have made him acquainted," added she, "with the whole of my affairs, and "he has promised, if Lord Melbourne "does not settle them, he will con- "trive to do it some way or other. "As to Coleraine, I hate and despise "him." I told her, that staying with her was out of the question; that I had promised to return to England, and certainly should; and, that she must go with me, for I could not be happy without her. We had no sleep all that night, and rose early to breakfast; and, when I told the history of my journey, and the behaviour of Lord Coleraine, I thought

thought the Colonel would have fallen from his chair with laughing. Indeed, when I conſidered the many different parts I played in life, and the many more I had to play, I wondered at my own abilities, reſolution and ſpirits; ſo many ſcenes have I gone through, and ſo many ſtrange adventures have I met with, that in recounting them, I can ſcarce credit the truth of them myſelf, and am led ſometimes to conceive the whole as a fable; but, as I do not write merely to entertain, but to ſtate facts, as they occur; my readers may rely on the authenticity of all I have related. I could have embelliſhed this work, as other writers of memoirs have done, and filled them with obſervations and reflections, as I paſſed; a ſcheme which

others have often recourſe to, to ſwell their volumes; had I purſued the ſame plan, twelve volumes, inſtead of ſix, would not have contained this hiſtory. I have, therefore, given my readers a plain narrative of facts, and ſhall leave them to make ſuch reflections on them as they pleaſe.

It was ſettled to accompany Colonel Lutterell the next day to Dublin, and dine with ſome friends of his at the Caſtle; ſee my fellow-traveller there, and his wife, and take our leave of them. We went, and I drew from them a promiſe not to let Lord Coleraine know where I, or Mrs. Baddeley, was. The gentleman ſeemed quite happy, and was reconciled to his wife; laughed at his

own

own foolish conduct; begged my pardon for his behaviour to me, and said, that had I not clapped the pistol to his breast, he verily believed he should have tumbled me into the sea. He then told me every thing that occurred between him and Lord Coleraine, said, when at Brighthelmstone, he was taken for a mad-man; "And indeed, I was as "wild," said he, "as him." They sat off the next day for England; we dined in Dublin, and returned to Lutterell's-town in the evening.

The next morning Mrs. Baddeley acquainted me, that Colonel Lutterell said, he would plan an arrangement of her affairs with me, and had a proposal to make me. During my stay, the

Colonel

Colonel ſpared no trouble or expence to ſhew me every place, within a day's ride, worth ſeeing, and all the amuſements at Dublin. Mrs. Baddeley was there known as the Honourable Mrs. Steele, and was as much admired at the polite places there, as in England. It gave me pleaſure to ſee the Colonel's attention, which was that of an indulgent friend; not extravagant, but far above any meanneſs; and fourteen days paſt in the greateſt comfort I think I ever enjoyed. Surely Providence chequers our happineſs with occaſional troubles, to make us taſte our enjoyments the more, or troubles would not occur ſo often as they do. Theſe fourteen days of ſocial intercourſe and placid retirement were at laſt interrupted. On the fifteenth

day

day, we were to dine with Colonel Lutterell, at a friend's houſe at Dublin; and we all three went in his poſt-chaiſe. The Colonel never went without a pair of loaded piſtols, which were in the front pocket. In our way to Dublin, we paſſed through Phœnix-park, and were in high ſpirits; but, they were ſuddenly checked by a ſight of a noddy, or one-horſe chaiſe, with a box in front, on which I diſcovered Lord Coleraine's ſervant. As ſoon as they ſaw us, they ſtopped: Lord Coleraine, who was in the noddy, jumped out, his man followed him, and they came up and ſtopped our carriage. Mrs. Baddeley was ſo much frightened, that Colonel Lutterell called out to Lord Coleraine, and aſked him, ſternly, what

what he wanted. His Lordſhip replied, he wanted the ladies that were in the carriage with him. "How dare you," cried the Colonel, "ſtop my chaiſe?" "Becauſe," replied Lord Coleraine, "I want Mrs. Baddeley." "You have "no buſineſs with her," ſaid the Colonel, "and of courſe you ſhall not have "her. If you require any ſatisfaction "from me, I am ready to give it you; "but, the lady you ſhall not have, by "G—d; for, I will defend her with my "life." "I came here, Sir," returned Lord Coleraine, "for her, and from "this place I will not go without her." The Colonel bad his ſervant go on. "No, Sir," ſaid his Lordſhip, "he "ſhall not go on." At this, the Colonel addreſſed himſelf to me, for Mrs. Baddeley

Baddeley was too much frightened to attend to him. "Mrs. Steele," ſaid he, "do you put yourſelf under my "protection?" "I do Sir," replied I, "and am ready to aſſiſt you to the ut- "moſt of my power. "Out jumped the Colonel with his piſtols, and I after him. "Come Sir," ſaid he to Lord Coleraine, "take one of them, and let "us end this matter, as gentlemen ought "to do." Lord Coleraine then begged his pardon, ſaid, he ſaw the impro- priety of his own conduct, and was ſorry; begged the Colonel to put up his piſtols, and ſaid to me, inſultingly, "You ſee, Madam, I have found out "Mrs. Baddeley, without your infor- "mation." "Take care what you ſay, "Sir," ſaid the Colonel, "for, by G—d,

"you

" you ſhall not offend Mrs. Steele. She " is under my protection, and the leaſt " rudeneſs to her, will be reſented by " me." Mrs. Baddeley ſaid not a word, but looked as pale as death, and trembled like a leaf. The Colonel then told his Lordſhip, that as he had made a proper conceſſion for his ill behaviour, he ſhould paſs it over for that time, but adviſed him to be cautious how he acted in the ſame manner again. He then took Mrs. Baddeley in his arms, and begged her to be happy. Lord Coleraine came nearer to her, and aſked her if ſhe would not ſpeak to him; and, on her making no anſwer, he ſtruck his forehead with the palm of his hand, and exclaimed, " O God, I ſhall go " mad!" Then turning to the Colonel, ſaid,

ſaid, "Give me leave, Sir, to come to "your houſe as a gentleman, for I "have ſomething to propoſe in behalf "of Mrs. Baddeley, that will atone "for my paſt miſconduct; and, I re-"queſt, for humanity's ſake, that you "will indulge me with a candid hear-"ing; and, if what I have to propoſe, "ſhould be ſo unfortunate as not to "meet with her and your approbation, "I promiſe you, upon my honour, that "I will take my leave of you as be-"comes a gentleman, and never trou-"ble you more." To this, Colonel Lutterell replied, "My Lord, you now "talk with ſome degree of reaſon, and "as I have Mrs. Baddeley's happineſs "much at heart, I am ready to hear "what you have to propoſe, and ſhall

" be proud to ſee your Lordſhip at my " houſe for that purpoſe; but, permit " me to ſay, that I hope you do not " mean to amuſe me with an idle tale; " for, I am determined you ſhall never " have Mrs. Baddeley from me, with- " out her own conſent. We dine at " Dublin, and ſhall return in the even- " ing, where you will find me, either " then, or to-morrow morning." He begged hard to take Mrs. Baddeley by the hand, but the Colonel ſwore by G—d he ſhould not. He then bowed ſubmiſſively; we went on, and he returned to his noddy, and looked like a man crazed. Mrs. Baddeley could not but obſerve how ſtrange a man Lord Coleraine was; that, he haunted her like a ghoſt, and was now come to in-

terrupt

terrupt her peace. The Colonel assured her, that neither he nor any one else should discompose her; that, for her sake, he would hear what he had to say; and, if she would trust herself in his hands, he would take care to manage him properly. "As to you, Steele," said he, addressing himself to me, "you "have a good spirit of your own, and "had I stood in need of a second, I "find I should not have wanted one." In Dublin, there was every thing to regale and entertain us; but, a heavy gloom hung over Mrs. Baddeley, as she dreaded the consequence of Lord Coleraine's coming to Ireland; apprehending he had some evil design against the Colonel, her, or me. We returned from Dublin soon; and, as we passed

through Phœnix-park, we saw poor Gaby, wandering like a solitary lover: as the chaise passed him, he bowed, and we returned it. Mrs. Baddeley was, at the first sight of him, seized with such a trembling, that I feared she would have fallen into fits. She entreated the Colonel not to fight with him, and wished to extort a promise from him to that effect. His reply was, that he could not tell how he might be circumstanced, but assured her, on his honour, no such thing should take place that night. In the evening Lord Coleraine came, and drank tea with us. He kept his eyes fixed on Mrs. Baddeley, but she did not afford him one kind look. Colonel Lutterell sat by her. After tea, Lord Coleraine said, he wished to have some

conver-

converſation with Mrs. Baddeley alone, but ſhe oppoſed this altogether; ſaid, ſhe had no ſecrets, and whatever he had to ſay, muſt be before the whole company. Colonel Smith was preſent. He ſaid, he was not aſhamed to declare, that his love and affection for her, was ſo great, that without her, his life was not worth the holding; that, he wiſhed to have her home with him, whilſt he or ſhe lived; that he would make a ſettlement on her, and pay every debt ſhe owed, let the ſum be what it would. The Colonel aſked him, whether he knew the amount of her debts; he replied, he did; and that he had it from Mr. P. whom he had often converſed with on the ſubject. The Colonel aſked him what they amounted to. His Lord-

ſhip ſaid, between three and four thouſand pounds. This he was ready to pay, and more if neceſſary; provided ſhe would be reconciled to him, and live with him. "Nay," continued he, "as the fulleſt teſt of my love, when-"ever ſhe is at liberty, if I am living, "I will marry her." The Colonel ſaid, he did not hear Mrs. Baddeley ſay ſhe would accept theſe terms.— "Nor," returned Lord Coleraine, "does "ſhe ſay ſhe will not." "I will, Sir," ſaid Mrs. Baddeley, "give an anſwer "to this, for I am determined never to "leave this country." "This ſhall be "no objection," returned his Lordſhip, addreſſing himſelf to her, "for if it be "your choice, it ſhall be mine."— "But," continued ſhe, "I will not

"leave

" leave this houſe; nor, in ſhort, will " I conſent to hear any more of this " converſation. I have experienced " your cruelty ſufficiently, not to truſt " myſelf again in any houſe of your's." His Lordſhip confeſſed he had not done, as he ought to have done by her, and was ſo convinced of his fault, that he would now give up all he had to make atonement; and muſt own, that he thought her of the two, by far the moſt cruel, not to forgive one who loved her as he did, and had made ſuch ample conceſſions and propoſals. He hoped, therefore, ſhe was not ſerious, on ſaying ſhe would not leave the houſe ſhe was in. She declared ſhe was ſerious; that ſhe was happy now, under the roof of a gentleman who knew how to treat a

woman;

woman; and, that ſhe valued and eſteemed him on that account; and ſaid, that it was brutal in him, to take the pains he did to interrupt her peace; that, ſhe owed his Lordſhip no ill will; ſincerely wiſhed him happy; and, as her heart was then engaged, with an object deſerving it, ſhe would by no means withdraw it. "I loved you once," ſaid ſhe, "I do acknowledge, and had you but "treated me with common attention and "civility, I ſhould have loved you "ſtill; but you took advantage of my "fondneſs, inſulted my regard, and "acted like a tyrant; deaf to my cries, "and unmoved by my tears, you de"ſerted me, at a time you owed me pro"tection; left me in diſtreſs and miſery, "and made your father your excuſe;

"and,

" and, had not my dear friend, now
" ſitting by me, (pointing to me)
" aſſiſted me in this extremity, and
" enabled me to pay thoſe debts, which
" were partly contracted by you, and
" left by you unpaid; a jail would have
" been my portion, and I ſhould have
" pined away my life in wretchedneſs."
" My dear Mrs. Baddeley," returned his Lordſhip, " I truſt there is ſome
" merit in acknowledging one's faults;
" I take ſhame to myſelf, and own my-
" ſelf guilty of all you charge me with;
" but, I have had leiſure for reflection,
" and am come here with a reſolution
" to atone for all my miſconduct; to
" entreat your pardon, for every offence
" I have committed, and to aſſure you,
" that if you will forgive me, and ſuffer

" me

" me once more to enjoy the only wiſh " I have on earth, that I will, by my " future conduct, convince you of my " ſincerity, and ſhew you how much I " am devoted to you." Every one ſat with attention whilſt he ſpoke this, nor was he interrupted, but by Mrs. Baddeley, who told his Lordſhip, that her converſation and his would not be pleaſing to her friends; that, as ſhe was determined to know him no more, than as a friend, ſhe requeſted he would drop the ſubject; then, turning to the Colonel, ſhe begged his pardon for being the involuntary cauſe of interrupting the quiet of his houſe, and hoped he would excuſe it. The Colonel entreated ſhe would not apologize to him, as he thought himſelf highly honoured in the confidence

confidence ſhe repoſed in him; and, whilſt ſhe thought proper to continue under his roof, ſhe would always meet with his protection, and regard; and that, whilſt he lived, he would gladly ſhare his fortune with her, for he held her as a valuable prize, and ſhould feel the loſs of her, more than any thing that could happen to him. "And now, "my Lord," ſaid he to Lord Coleraine, "as you have heard Mrs. Bad-"deley's declaration, I muſt requeſt "that you will deſiſt from any further "purſuits, and it will lay me under an "obligation," Lord Coleraine, replied, he was too much hurt, to make an immediate anſwer, and told the Colonel he had a favour to aſk of him. The Colonel anſwered, there was none that

he

he could aſk, independent of Mrs. Baddeley, but he would readily grant. This favour was, to have a bed at his houſe for that night. This was politely conſented to, provided no more was ſaid on the ſubject, that proved ſo diſagreeable. The converſation now took a different turn; but, Lord Coleraine was ſilent, and ſeemed to muſe within himſelf; which led me to apprehend, he had ſome dark deſign in view; eſpecially, as I thought no man who loved a woman, could wiſh to ſleep under the ſame roof with her, whilſt ſhe was in the arms of a rival. Mrs. Baddeley recovered her uſual ſpirits, and paid great attention to Colonel Lutterell, who did not fail in a reſpectful return. When ſupper was over, the Colonel ſaid, to

Mrs.

Mrs. Baddeley, "When you pleaſe to go "to bed, do me the favour to put this "on the table;" taking ſomething from his pocket, and giving it to her. She ſaid, ſhe found herſelf ſleepy, and would wiſh us a good night. Lord Coleraine, who had not ſpoke for an hour, ſaid, "Good night, Mrs. Baddeley." The compliment was returned, and ſhe then, addreſſing herſelf to me, ſaid, "Come, "my dear Steele, will you go?" And, then to the Colonel, "Don't be long "before you come." "Certainly, my "dear," returned he, "I will not." As ſoon as we were gone, Lord Coleraine entered into cloſe converſation with Colonel Lutterell, confeſſed his love for Mrs. Baddeley, and ſaid, he could not poſſibly live without her; but,

that if he could only obtain from her a promiſe, that ſhe would return to him at ſome future time, he would go away contented, and ſtay in Dublin till that happy time arrived; that, he would chearfully ſet her free in the world, and ſettle on her five hundred pounds a year, for her life; and, abſolutely cried like a child. The Colonel told him, he would talk the matter over with him, the next morning; wiſhed him a good night, and ordered his ſervant to attend his Lordſhip to his chamber. Mrs. Baddeley was very uneaſy at the Colonel's being left with Lord Coleraine; but, as I aſſured her, from what I ſaw, that his Lordſhip loved himſelf too well to think of fighting, ſhe hoped no miſchief would enſue. I told her, that

I ſuppoſed

I ſuppoſed my fellow-traveller had made Lord Coleraine acquainted with the place ſhe was at; and, that I imagined by this time, Lord Melbourne knew it too; for Lord Coleraine would be happy to make him acquainted with it, in order to check the connexion between them. She was of the ſame opinion; and that, notwithſtanding all Lord Coleraine's great offers, if ſhe confided in them, ſhe ſhould find herſelf deceived; for, that as ſoon as he got her to London, he would break his faith with her. I reaſoned with her, however, on her affairs, and ſaid, it was proper to think of them; for, I dreaded the conſequence of being wholly in the hands of Mr. P. I ſaid the ſame to Colonel Lutterell, when he came up-ſtairs, who thought

with me, that ſome arrangement ſhould take place, and that he would do all in his power to diſcharge her debts; but that it was impoſſible for him to pay the whole, or he would do it with pleaſure; that, Lord Coleraine ought to do it, and that he might poſſibly be induced to it. "Yes," ſaid Mrs. Baddeley, "if "I would ſhew him any civility; and "therefore, though I hate him; if you "have no objection, my dear Colonel; "rather than diſtreſs you, I ſhould not "mind, for a time, any torture of mind "I underwent." "As to me," replied the Colonel, "there is nothing in my "power, but is at your ſervice, and you "may command it. But Lord Cole-"raine ought to pay your debts, in juſ-"tice." "So he ſhall," ſaid Mrs. Baddeley,

Baddeley, taking the words out of the Colonel's mouth, "and we will con-"trive matters accordingly." With this reſolution I left them.

In the morning, Mrs. Baddeley came to my bed-ſide, and told me, that ſhe had had a great deal of converſation with the Colonel, reſpecting her debts; and, that if ſhe would ſuffer it, he would even diſtreſs himſelf to pay them; but ſhe was determined he ſhould not, for, when ſhe was out of debt, ſhe would return and be happy with him; that the Colonel adviſed it, and ſaid, though to part with her would give him more pain than he could expreſs; yet, as it would only be for a ſhort time, as he had her intereſt ſo much at heart, he

would truſt to her honour to return to him, when opportunity ſerved; and, that he would bind his Lordſhip to ſet her free in the world, before he would conſent to her leaving him. "Therefore," continued ſhe, "though being "with Lord Coleraine a ſingle day, "will be a puniſhment; yet, as I fear "that Lord Melbourne will do nothing "for me, I think I muſt comply. But, "the Colonel ſays, pay, or do as he will, "I ſhall not ſtir for a month. Lord "Coleraine told him, he would go to "Dublin, and wait his time patiently, "to let me come to him; and yet, I "have my fears. P. will not do with-"out his money; and, I dread, that "the villain Coleraine, will not let me "be a day happy; for, he will no

"ſooner

" ſooner get me again into his poſſef-
" ſion, than he will uſe me ill; but, let
" the conſequences be what they will, I
" muſt get my debts paid, and by him,
" on the beſt terms I can. I will
" not ſuffer him, however, to uſe you
" ill." " No," returned I, " I will
" take good care he ſhall not; and you
" need not have been in this predica-
" ment, had you followed my advice
" and have had ſome bounds to your
" extravagance." She felt the force of this, and declared, if ſhe was to paſs her time over again, ſhe would act very differently.

I received now a very preſſing letter for money from Mr. P.; ſhewed it to her, and told her, money muſt be got ſome where,

where; and, all things conſidered, I did not ſee any way ſo likely as that ſhe had pointed out; that I was ſo averſe to Lord Coleraine, for his behaviour to her, that I could not be commonly civil to him; and, though to be with him, would be almoſt death to me, yet it was of no uſe to ſtart objections, as ſomething muſt be done for her good, and I ſaw no other way of getting out of her embarraſſments, than the one ſhe propoſed.

We went down to breakfaſt, where we met his Lordſhip, who obſerved, that Mrs. Baddeley looked charmingly. He ſaid, he had a better night's reſt, than he had experienced for five years paſt; and it was owing to his being under the ſame roof with her. She replied, "I

"ſhould

" ſhould naturally have ſuppoſed, my " Lord, that *that* would have diſturbed " your reſt?" " No," returned he, upon his honour, he had not been ſo happy for ſome time. " Well then," ſaid Colonel Lutterell, " will you ſpend " the day with us?" His Lordſhip replied, " With pleaſure." After this, we grew more free, and indifferent in converſation. He next addreſſed himſelf to me, enquired after my fellow-traveller and his lady, aſked where they were; ſaid, he was ſenſible he had been a great torment to me, but hoped, when I conſidered the ſtate of his mind, that I would make allowances for it, and pardon him. He then proceeded to compliment me, and ſaid to Mrs. Baddeley, " Here is an honeſt heart, that no bribe

" can

" can purchaſe." Mrs. Baddeley replied, " I have long known her value, " and experienced her integrity in ma- " ny inſtances, and want not now to be " told of it." His Lordſhip then repeated to Mrs. Baddeley what he had before ſaid; that he would pay all her debts, and ſettle on her five hundred pounds a year. She aſked him if he meant, that ſhe ſhould continue with him, and live in the ſame houſe. His Lordſhip replied, if ſhe pleaſed. She ſaid, ſhe ſhould be happy to ſee him every day, but that as to living wholly with him under the ſame roof, ſhe would not on any account. He acquieſced in this plan, and ſaid, in that reſpect, ſhe ſhould be her own miſtreſs. Colonel Lutterell now interfered, and ſaid, " My

" Lord,

" Lord, if Mrs. Baddeley determines
" upon this; you will pleaſe to take no-
" tice, that I will not give up my hap-
" pineſs, unleſs, as a man of honour,
" you perform every promiſe you make
" in her favour. For though I love
" her, beyond every woman I have yet
" ſeen, yet on the expectation of your
" Lordſhip's bounty to her, I will ſacri-
" fice my happineſs to her intereſt. My
" fortune is but a ſmall one, compared
" with your Lordſhip's, but ſmall as it
" is, if ſhe could be at eaſe, with what
" I can afford to do for her, ſhe may
" command my utmoſt ſervices; but, as
" this is not likely to be the caſe, I
" ſhall, much againſt my wiſhes, relin-
" quiſh her; and, be aſſured, nothing but
" your Lordſhip's promiſes in her fa-

" vour

"vour would induce me to it." Lord Coleraine aſſured him, that, as he had made his propoſals to him as a gentleman; he ſhould conſider himſelf reſponſible to him for the performance of them, and would not recede from them, in the minuteſt point, "and, if I am ſo "happy," added he, "to have her return "to England with me, I will wait her "time, at Dublin, and not trouble you "any further." Lord Coleraine, at the Colonel's invitation, ſtaid till the next day; and, in the morning, preſſed him for his determination. He requeſted ten minutes converſation with Mrs. Baddeley and me, and would then give it him. We withdrew with the Colonel, and he took Mrs. Baddeley by the hand, and, with great tenderneſs, bad her conſider

ſider how to act, as to make herſelf happy. "I need not," ſaid he, "my dear "woman, repeat what I have already "ſaid, you know my ſentiments, and I "wiſh to hear your's." Her reply was, that, with his leave, ſhe would return to England with Lord Coleraine, in order to prevail on him to pay her debts, for ſhe could never think of treſpaſſing upon *him* to do it; that, his kindneſs and attention to her would never be obliterated from her breaſt; that ſhe would be as little as poſſible with Lord Coleraine, and would, if he approved of it, return to Lutterell's-town, as ſoon as her mind was at eaſe. The Colonel aſked my opinion; and I told him, though I had reaſon to deſpiſe Lord Coleraine, yet I believed he loved Mrs. Baddeley; and if he acted as

he propoſed, it would, in a great meaſure, atone for his paſt conduct; but that I doubted his doing ſo; however, as I had ſtill greater doubts of Lord Melbourne's extricating her, from the difficulties ſhe was in, I thought it prudent to try what Lord Coleraine would do. The Colonel thought the ſame, and aſſured me he would tie him down to his promiſe; but, that he would not part with her for a month to come. On our return to Lord Coleraine, he looked like death, dreading the ſentence he was about to hear. Colonel Lutterell thus addreſſed him. "We have talked over "this matter, my Lord, and as you "wiſh to have Mrs. Baddeley to Eng-"land with you; on the condition "that you pledge yourſelf to me, as a "gentleman,

" gentleman, and a man of honour,
" that you will pay every debt ſhe
" owes, ſettle five hundred pounds a
" year upon her, and treat her hand-
" ſomely; I will forego all the happi-
" neſs I promiſed myſelf, and ſhe con-
" ſents to place herſelf under your
" Lordſhip's protection; provided your
" Lordſhip will not expect her to live
" in the ſame houſe with you; but ſuf-
" fer her to live with her friend Mrs.
" Steele, as ſhe has hitherto done, re-
" ceiving your Lordſhip's viſits daily,
" as you ſeem to wiſh." Lord Cole-
raine, with his heart in his mouth, ſcarce
able to utter his words for joy, thanked
the Colonel, and bleſſed both me and
Mrs. Baddeley. He aſſured Colonel Lut-
terell, that he would do more than he

had promiſed; and, that if he deviated a tittle from the propoſals he had made, he would ſubmit to be put to death. The Colonel replied, he muſt further add, that he ſhould not part with Mrs. Baddeley for one month, from that day; but, at the expiration of that time, he would perſonally conduct her to his Lordſhip, either in Dublin, or at London, as might be moſt agreeable to him. Lord Coleraine ſaid, he would wait that month at Dublin; but wiſhed the Colonel would ſay a fortnight, as Mr. P. was impatient for his money, and the conſequences of his not being paid might be diſagreeable. "On theſe "conditions," returned the Colonel, "I "will keep her but a fortnight; and on "this day fourteen days, your Lordſhip

"may

"may expect to see her." His Lordship, in transports of extasy, gave each of us ten thousand thanks, declared he was the happiest man on earth, would wait the appointed day with patience, and would trouble neither of us more. One favour he only had to ask of me, which was, that I would in the course of that fortnight, do him the honour to send to him, or come once a day to Dublin, and see him, during his exile. I told him I would see him occasionally, but could not promise him every day. "Will you then receive a letter from "me," said he, "and answer it?" I told him, I would, if it required an answer. With this he seemed satisfied, thanked Colonel Lutterell for his politeness, during his stay at Lutterell's town; and, with

Mrs. Baddeley's permiſſion, he would take his leave of her, offering to ſalute her. She drew back, with, "No, "Gaby, we ſhall meet ſoon, and let "that be reſerved for our meeting. "Kiſs my hand, if you pleaſe." He took her hand with raptures; preſſed it to his lips with fervancy; bowed reſpectfully, with tears in his eyes, and bleſſed us both; repeated his thanks to the Colonel, and went his way. Mrs. Baddeley's ſervant accompanied him to Dublin, and on leaving him, he gave John a guinea, and ſaid, he ſhould now be happy very ſhortly.

Colonel Lutterell ſaid, he could not help feeling for him, for he muſt be mortified beyond meaſure. "I could

"no

" no more have done," continued he, " what he has done, than I could have " laid down quietly to be maſſacred." " Nor any one," ſaid Mrs. Baddeley, " but himſelf." For the ſhort time we ſtayed, the Colonel was not remiſs in his attention, and took every means to give us pleaſure. He offered Mrs. Baddeley money often, but ſhe always refuſed it, and to my knowledge, ſhe never had a guinea of him; but, this was *her* own fault, not *his*. This ſeat, at Lutterell's town, was the property of Lord Corhampton, the Colonel's father; but, having given his ſon poſſeſſion of it, he could not afterwards remove him; the Colonel knowing his father had a houſe, was unwilling to give it up. This occaſioned a quarrel between

between them, and whilſt we were there, Lord Corhampton, then Lord Irnham, in heat of paſſion, ſent his ſon a challenge in a letter, calling on him to meet him the next morning, at ſeven, in Phœnix-park. On the receipt of this unwelcome letter, the Colonel, with the moſt reſpectful attention, ſealed it up in a blank cover, and ſent his ſervant with orders to deliver it to Lord Irnham, with his duty and reſpect. This was done, that his Lordſhip might not ſuppoſe he would take advantage of, or ſhew what was, perhaps, merely the effect of raſhneſs. During this fortnight, I ſaw Lord Coleraine four or five times, received letters from him daily, and at the fourteen days end, Colonel Lutterell attended Mrs. Baddeley to Dublin,

ſin, and delivered her to Lord Coleraine, as he had promiſed. His Lordſhip having prepared a packet, and all things being ready, we went on board that day, the Colonel accompanying us to the water-ſide, where the boat was waiting to convey us on board: we took leave of the Colonel, not without great reluctance, as his care and polite attention to us merited our beſt thanks. In our way down the river, we ran foul of a poſt near the bank. "Bad manners to "you," ſaid one of the boat-men to the other, "will you run a-head on the top "of the poſt?" "Bad ſtink to you," replied the other, "how can we run on "the top, when we cannot ſee the bot-"tom?" I mention theſe expreſſions of the Iriſh water-men, to obſerve how much

much better it is to uſe ſuch terms, than the horrid oaths and Thames ribaldry, ſo frequent in the mouths of our London water-men. If a man muſt ſwear, he had better ſwear by his bottle, or any other thing he pleaſes, than his Maker. We were preſently on board, and in twelve hours time at Holyhead, where we ſtaid all night. I know not how to paint the ſelf-ſatisfaction that was viſible in the countenance of Lord Coleraine, having once more his dear Mrs. Baddeley in his poſſeſſion. Had ſhe been attentive to him, he would have been ready to have devoured her; but, ſhe was reſerved in her behaviour, and would not even let him ſit by her. When we were at Holyhead, he would fain have had her ſleep with him, but ſhe ſtrongly

ſtrongly objected to it, determined firſt to ſee how he intended acting by her. He ſaid, it was cruel; but, if it muſt be ſo, he would ſubmit. Whilſt we were there, the poor blind man, whoſe harp my Daniſh fellow-traveller had, in his paſſion, deſtroyed, came to play to us on the new harp he had purchaſed, with the money I gave him. He told us the ſtory I have related, of having a valuable harp broke by a mad-man; that, the ſame man had been there ſince, and that whilſt he was in the houſe, he locked himſelf up, leſt he ſhould do him a ſecond injury. This led to the ſtory of Lord Coleraine's being taken for a mad-man, at Brighthelmſtone, as I have before related; which was then underſtood by the blind harper,

harper, who conceived his Lordſhip was mad at intervals, and induced him to ſay to me, "I hope the gentleman "is not mad now." His Lordſhip, by way of fun, jumped up, and roared out, "Yes, by the L—d am I, raving "mad." The poor bard, alarmed at this, ran out of the room in ſuch a fright, that he ſcarce knew how he got out: went into the kitchen, told the maids that the Nobleman, in company with two ladies, was out of his mind; and, that whilſt he was playing to him, he fell into a raving fit. When we returned to our chamber, for Mrs. Baddeley ſlept with me, the chamber-maid enquired into this, and we told her, the gentleman was certainly a lunatic, but at times was as quiet as a lamb; however,

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at other times, would do a great deal of mischief, and destroy every thing about him; but, that these mad fits did not come upon him once in a week; and, as he was just out of his raving fits, there was little danger. This intelligence was communicated to the mistress of the house, and the room in which his Lordship slept, was stripped of every thing of any value. When he went to bed, the mistress of the inn frequently listened at his door, and the maid came in to tell us, that she had taken the looking-glass out of the room where the mad Lord slept, and had been to see whether he was quiet, and was happy to acquaint us, that he was asleep, and had had no raving fit. In the morning, we told the maid, that, if she was very attentive to

his Lordſhip, and did every thing he bad her, he would not rave at all. She told us, that he came to their houſe about three weeks ago, in a chaiſe, with ſix horſes, and his footman in the chaiſe with him, to prevent his doing any miſchief. In ſhort, the girl made us laugh with her conjectures and her apprehenſions, till we were quite ſick. The girl ſaid, ſhe believed the Londoners were all mad, for when they came there, they flew, and tore, and ſtormed as if the devil was in them.

I adviſed Mrs. Baddeley to be more civil and attentive to Lord Coleraine, leſt he ſhould fly from his promiſe; but, ſhe ſaid, ſhe ſhould find a difficulty in being ſo, ſhe deteſted him

ſo

ſo much; and, as to his promiſe, ſhe would be bound Colonel Lutterell would keep him to it, for Lord Coleraine would do any thing rather than fight; "indeed," continued ſhe, "he "is too much in love with his ſweet "perſon to expoſe it to any riſk; don't "you obſerve how he is conſtantly "ſtrutting before the glaſs, firſt admir- "ing his leg, then his foot, and, when "he has no glaſs to ſee his face in, is "he not always looking at his hand? "He forgets that I expect ſome ſhare "of his admiration; and, if he does "this, I ſhall forget to be civil to "him."

The miſtreſs of the houſe went to call Lord Coleraine up, for the maid was

afraid to go near him; and he ſwore ſo much at being diſturbed, that the whole houſe was confirmed in their opinion of his inſanity. He d—ned the harper who was playing at our room door, and ſaid, he never heard ſo much noiſe in an inn before. We hurried down to breakfaſt in order to get on our journey early, and Lord Coleraine was as eager to be gone as we were; for he ſaid, the people ſtared at him, as if they were afraid of him. We did not tell him the opinion of the people concerning him, or he would have been mad indeed. The carriages were ordered, his Lordſhip paid the bill, and we went. I and my daughter, Lord Coleraine and Mrs. Baddeley, travelled in her coach, which ſhe left at Holyhead, when ſhe went to Dublin;

Dublin; and, her maid and man in a poſt-chaiſe. His Lordſhip was ſeemingly in good ſpirits; but, as Mrs. Baddeley refuſed him her hand, at times, when he would have taken hold of it, and was rather reſerved to him, he grew ſulky. We went on pretty quiet, however, till we got to Coventry, where Lord Coleraine began in his uſual way to pick a quarrel with her, on account of Lord Melbourne, and ſpoke very diſreſpectfully of him and Colonel Lutterell, which we very properly reſented. In ſhort, he behaved ſo ill, that we could ſcarce put up with him. Mrs. Baddeley told him, ſhe was not ſorry he had ſhewn his vile temper ſo early; for, as ſhe had not got to the end of her journey, ſhe would go no farther with

him, but would return the next day to Dublin. This alarmed him; he begged pardon, and promiſed not to offend in the ſame way again, and all was made up. When we reached London, he ſtopped at his own houſe, begged us to alight, and ſaid, he would ſend for Mr. P. immediately. This induced us to comply. Mr. P. was ſent for, and was happy to ſee us altogether. "You "ſee, Sir," ſaid Lord Coleraine to him, "that after perils of the land, "perils of the ſea, and perils of the "ſword, I have at laſt obtained the "ſummit of my wiſhes; and have got "my ſweet woman once more into my "own poſſeſſion, and am in my own "houſe again ſafe and well. I have "taken the liberty to ſend for you, to

"ſettle

" ſettle matters with you reſpecting " Mrs. Baddeley. It is on theſe con- " ditions that ſhe has returned to me; " and, if you will do me the favour " to come here to-morrow, at three " o'clock, with a ſtate of the accounts, " I will pay you the ballance; and, as " a proof of my intentions to do ſo," (going to a drawer and giving him a five hundred pound bank-note,) " pleaſe " to take this with you in part." This pleaſed Mrs. Baddeley, and no leſs ſo Mr. P.; but, the firſt thing that Mrs. Baddeley thought of, and enquired after, was her cat, which Mr. P. aſſured her was well. She then propoſed going home to ſee it, but Lord Coleraine ſaid ſhe muſt ſtay with him that night. She declared, however, ſhe could not, but

after

after a great many entreaties, and above three hours importuning on his part, ſhe at laſt conſented. She would have had me to have ſtaid with her; but, as I told her I had ſworn never to ſleep under his roof, nor ſuffer him to ſleep under mine, I would not break it; of courſe I left her, ſaying, I would ſee her the next day. On my return home, I enquired if Lord Melbourne had been to aſk for us, and was told, once. Mr. P. called on me the next morning, before he went to Lord Coleraine's; ſaid, it was reported that Mrs. Baddeley had run away, and that the conſequence was diſtreſſing to him, as her creditors were very troubleſome, and that he had been arreſted ſeventeen times on her account, and, that for drafts not yet due; but,

that

that he had bailed them, and of courſe had gained time. I told him, I was ſorry to hear it, as the time was of little moment when ſet againſt the affront. He gave me to underſtand, that none of the writs were ſerved on him, through a friend in the Sheriff's office, and the influence of a fee. He had always intelligence when a writ was taken out, and he ſent and bailed it immediately; that, he did not ſend her word of this, as he knew ſhe was in Ireland for a good purpoſe, and would be ſhortly back. Whilſt he was with me, Mrs. Baddeley came from Lord Coleraine's, cried much, and ſaid, he was ſtill the ſame bad-hearted man as ever, and declared he would not now pay Mr. P. and had uſed her very ill; that, I had not been

gone

gone an hour, before he began to upbraid her, and make uſe of language of the moſt inſolent reſentment his imagination could conceive; that he locked her in, or ſhe would have run away from him. "Oh!" ſaid ſhe, "my "dear Steele, he is ſuch a villain, I "do not know how to deſcribe his bru-"tality to me. Had he left me where "he found me, my debts would all "have been paid; but, his falſe pro-"miſes have only ſerved to involve "me the more." Mr. P. begged her to be pacified, ſaid, he was convinced Lord Coleraine was a bad man, but he would try what he could do with him. "In ſhort," ſaid he, "let him act as "he will; it is neceſſary you ſhould "keep up your ſpirits and connexions,

"or

" or the world will not notice you; fol-
" low, therefore, my advice, and all
" will be well." He ſtaid with us till the appointed hour, and then went to Lord Coleraine's. He was received with a laugh, and " You are come
" Mr. P. and you may go again, for I
" have altered my mind. You are wel-
" come to the five hundred pounds you
" had laſt night, but not a ſhilling
" more will I ever pay for her." Mr. P. having been made acquainted with ſome of the promiſes Lord Coleraine had made, talked much to him on that head; and, at laſt, his Lordſhip gave him two hundred pounds more, and took his receipt for the ſeven hundred pounds, and ſaid, he might poſſibly be of another way of thinking by and by; but,

that

that at preſent, he would not do more. Mr. P. then left him, and obſerved to us, that the honour of theſe men lay totally in their title; that breach of faith in a tradeſman would be counted highly diſhonourable, but, that Noblemen ſeemed to pride themſelves in their want of integrity; and that from what he had ſeen of Lord Melbourne, Lord Coleraine, and others, he hoped God would defend him from ſuch *honourable* men. Mrs. Baddeley now ſhewed her arms to Mr. P. and they were black from her ſhoulders to her wriſts, with the blows Lord Coleraine had given her; he having beat her unmercifully; and ſhe was once afraid he would have murdered her. "He wanted me," ſaid ſhe to me, "to run off with him

"to

" to France, and leave you and Mr. P. " in the lurch; and, on my saying " that I would beg my bread before I " would be guilty of so base an act; " he asked me, if I was simple enough " to suppose that he would pay all the " money I owed; and, that he had " given that fellow P. the five hundred " pounds to *sweeten* him, till he could " get away; in short, he said, what no " man of any principle would have said; " and, I could not get from him, but " with a promise to return to dinner, " but, no more into his house will I " ever go." Mr. P. and I commended her for this, and he asked us, if we wanted money. We told him not; nay, Mrs. Baddeley said, she was hurt that he had no more, but she would take

care he ſhould have more before it was long: he urged her to take the two hundred pounds he had received that morning, and gave it to me; I took it, and ſaid, if he wanted it, he knew where to find it; for, though I ſhould not probably have occaſion to make uſe of it, it might be as well to have it in the houſe. He adviſed Mrs. Baddeley never to let Lord Coleraine come into her houſe, and he would always ſtand her friend, and left us. Lord Coleraine's ſervant preſently brought his maſter's compliments, telling Mrs. Baddeley, dinner had waited near two hours for her. She ſent him word, he might then eat it, for ſhe would come no more to him. On the receipt of this anſwer, he flew to our houſe, and I went to him,

and

and told him, that his treatment of Mrs. Baddeley was ſo abominable, that ſhe would never ſee him more, but in public; that he ought to be aſhamed of himſelf; that he was a man without honour; that, he ſhould never ſet his foot within my doors again; and, that if he did not quit the houſe immediately, I would call for aſſiſtance, and turn him out; that he was a villain for uſing her as he had done; that I would expoſe him to the world for the ſake of all women, that no other might be ſo deceived as ſhe had been. "Do," returned he, "and I will be even with "you." I told him, he was a coward, or he would not have beat her as he had, and that it was a wonder he had not killed her. He replied, "I wiſh I

" had." This ſo exaſperated me, that I ſtormed at him, bad him quit my houſe that inſtant, or he muſt take the conſequences. He went away in a rage, and Mrs. Baddeley, who was liſtening at the door, and heard what paſſed, was well pleaſed with me, but ſaid, ſhe feared he would never be eaſy, till he had murdered one of us. " I will now " ſee," added ſhe, " what Lord Mel- " bourne is diſpoſed to do; for if he " thinks proper to leave me, he ſhould " ſet me free in the world, or he will " not act as a gentleman. I will not " ſend to him," continued ſhe, " but " have it inſerted in the papers, that I " am come to town, and he will pre- " ſently know it; and, if he does not " come, I will find him out in public."

I accord-

I accordingly wrote, *Yesterday arrived in town, Mrs. Baddeley, of Drury-lane Theatre*; and sent it to the Morning-post, for insertion.

She had now made up her mind, respecting Lord Coleraine, and determined to have done with him; for his treatment of her in the night, she said, was so brutal, that a savage could not have used her worse. She was in pain from the blows she had received for some days, and not disposed to see any one, of course we gave orders to be denied to all but Mr. P. or Lord Melbourne if he called; and on no account to let Lord Coleraine within the doors. We kept our room two days, in which time we heard the means Lord Cole-

raine took to find us out. A maid ſervant of my friend at Chelſea, to whom on her return from Ireland, her miſtreſs had ſaid where ſhe had been; knowing how anxious his Lordſhip was to find Mrs. Baddeley out, went to him, and told him, if he would give her ten guineas, ſhe would inform him; he gave her this ſum, and ſet off for Dublin immediately.

Mr. P. called, ſaid he had met Lord Coleraine, who was ſorry he had given Mrs. Baddeley a ſhilling, as ſhe had refuſed to ſee him. "I told his Lordſhip," ſaid Mr. P. "that if ſhe did ſee him "again, ſhe ought to be ſacrificed; for "that I could not have treated a dog, "as he treated her." We acquainted him

him with our intention, reſpecting Lord Melbourne, and he approved it, and adviſed Mrs. Baddeley to keep up her ſpirits, and go into the world, and he was ſure all would be well. " I think," continued Mr. P. " If Lord Mel-" bourne does not come in a few days, " you had better let me go to him, and " hear what he has to ſay for his beha-" viour to you and me." Mrs. Baddeley replied, that ſhe would, with his leave, endeavour to meet him firſt in public, and if that had not the deſired effect, he ſhould then wait on him. This was agreed on.

The next day, we took a ride into Hyde-park, and went to ſee our friend at Chelſea; who told us that every thing was

was made up between her and her husband; that Lord Coleraine had been with her, to know where we were, but that she excused herself from telling him, by saying, she had sworn not to do it; and when we told her how her servant had acted, she discharged her. On our return, we met the Duke of Queensberry, who welcomed us back, and invited us to dinner. In the evening we went to the Opera, where all Mrs. Baddeley's friends flocked round her, and seemed happy in her return. Lord Palmerston continued the whole evening with us, and he and the Honourable Mr. Hobart, handed us to our carriage. The next day we went to Mr. King's, the silk-mercer's. He hoped we were come to be customers. Mrs.

Baddeley

Baddeley said no, that she came only to see what new fashions he had, and to blame him for suing Mr. P. His reply was, that Mr. P. was not punctual; that punctuality was the life of trade, and that where a tradesman failed in it, they had always recourse to obligatory means; but that he should not have served *her* so; and as a proof, that her credit was good with him, his whole warehouse was at her service. "I believe," said Mrs. Baddeley, "the best way is never "to put one's-self in your power, and "therefore, in future, I shall think "twice, before I make any purchase."

We next went to see Mr. P. and told him what a reprimand Mr. King had received from us, for which he thanked

us,

us. Mr. P. lived in the ſtile of a man of faſhion, and we were entertained, though in the morning, with chocolate, cake, wine, liqueurs, &c. and all elegantly ſerved. On our return, a man in a handſome livery, dreſſed like a chair-man, brought a letter and enquired for the lady of the houſe, to whom he was directed to deliver it. Having ordered him in, he took out a paper, and ſaid he was a Sheriff's-officer, and had a writ againſt me. I begged to ſee it, and found it was againſt Mrs. Baddeley, for eighteen pounds, for work done by a ſmith at Hammerſmith; I did not, however, ſay he was wrong in his application, and he aſked me what I pleaſed to do in it. I told him I had never ſeen the bill, and of courſe could

ſay

ſay nothing to it; he then produced the bill, eighteen pounds eleven ſhillings and four-pence, which I paid him, and he demanded two guineas for the coſts; I aſked him for what; he replied, "The writ is one guinea, before it is "ſerved, and we generally have ano-"ther guinea by way of compliment, "if we behave well; and you ſee, Ma-"dam, I came here as privately as I "could, and you may depend on it, no "one ſhall know any thing about it." "Well," ſaid I, "for your civil inten-"tion, there is two guineas for you; "but take notice, it is a preſent, be-"cauſe I believe you meant well." He then told me it was his due, and on my aſking for a receipt, ſaid, he muſt ſearch the office for it. I replied, he might

might ſave himſelf that trouble, for my name was Steele and not Baddeley. When he found this, he altered his tone, ſaid he was much obliged to me, conſidered it as a gift, and would be ever grateful; and ſhould he ever have a writ, againſt either me or Mrs. Baddeley, he would never detain us a minute. I made him ſit down in an inner-room, ſent him ſome cold ham and chicken and a glaſs or two of madeira, and he went away pleaſed. This man's name was Kennedy, and to do him juſtice, he was true to his promiſe; and though he had afterwards many writs againſt Mrs. Baddeley, he only called and left his name, without mentioning any particulars, and was always well paid for his civility. When I acquainted Mrs. Baddeley

deley with this tranſaction, ſhe trembled, but ſaid, as it was a juſt debt, and ſhe was glad it was paid and that the man deſerved more than two guineas. "I "ſhall now," ſaid ſhe, "be afraid of "every one that comes to the houſe, "and ſhall think them all Sheriff's-"officers and Bailiffs. However, be "what they will, I will ſee them my-"ſelf, for I can never think, my dear "Steele, of ſuffering you to ſtand in "my ſhoes, and receive my affronts." I told her, there was little fear of ſuch things, except it was for trifles; as Mr. P. had anſwered for all the large debts; but ſhe afterwards had a fear about her; for at every knock at the door, ſhe ſeemed alarmed, and ſtarted up, and uſed to ſay, if ſhe was arreſted, ſhe

ſhould ſink to the ground, and die that inſtant. Lord Coleraine ſent his ſervant with a letter, but it was returned unopened. Mr. Conway called, and ſaid, her friends were all in an uproar at our abſence; ſome ſaid we were gone to France, and others to other places, but Lord Coleraine had been up and down the country like a mad-man. We did not tell him, nor any one where we had been, but ſaid, we had been on a frolick, and that the matter was a ſecret; ſhe, however, let him into the circumſtance of her having been with Lord Coleraine, and told him how he had uſed her, and ſhewed him her arms, which were ſtill black. He called him a villain, and declared that if ſhe would permit her friends to reſent it for her,

he

he would be the firſt to call him out. She thanked him for his good wiſhes, and friendly attention, but intreated him not to think of it; for he was a man not worth any gentleman's notice.

In the cloſe of the evening, Mrs. Baddeley's favourite cat was miſſing; frightened away, as was ſuppoſed by Mr. Conway's dog; and when the ſtreets were quiet, about twelve at night, we had to look for her: we walked along the pavement, and called her at the areas of every houſe in the neighbourhood. Whilſt we were thus employed, a gentleman paſt by in regimentals, and ſaid, "Ladies, I ſaw a cat at "the corner houſe." "Pray ſir," ſaid Mrs. Baddeley, "ſhew us where:" he

did, and it was her cat. The gentleman got over the rails and took it up; and ſo great was her joy, that ſhe thanked him a thouſand times. He begged leave to carry it home, and when we got to our door, we could do no leſs than aſk him in. He came in, and when he found it was Mrs. Baddeley, with whom he was, he kiſſed the cat, ſaid it was a fortunate event for him, for he had long wiſhed to be in Mrs. Baddeley's company, and now it was brought about. This gentleman's name was Morgan, and on his leaving us, wiſhed he might be permitted to pay his reſpects to us, at ſome other time. He was a well-behaved man, and by this ſtrange piece of buſineſs of the cat, by coming to our houſe, he got himſelf a wife,

a wife, with a fortune more than twenty thouſand pounds, as ſhall be ſhewn hereafter. He was not remiſs in his attention to Mrs. Baddeley, in whoſe heart he gained ſome footing: he was a conſtant viſitor, but did not aſſume any airs on account of the confidence ſhe placed in him, but always held himſelf under an obligation, for the reception he met with. If we were at home, it was well; if not, he left his compliments like a gentleman, and never aſked a queſtion.

We began now to think of Lord Melbourne, and were anxious to know what he meant to do. Mrs. Baddeley propoſed going to the play, in hopes of ſeeing him, but was diſappointed; how-

ever, ſhe was ſpoke to there by the foreign miniſters, one after the other, and welcomed on her return to town. Lord Falmouth alſo, the Duke of Manchester, and others addreſſed her, and were very laviſh in their compliments; and, if poſſible, more notice was taken of her than ſhe ever experienced before. She was handed to her carriage by Lord Cholmondley, and I, by the Honourable Mr. Dillon. On our return home, we found Mr. P. waiting, to whom I told the ſtory of the arreſt, and how I had acted. He thought it would be proper, to ſend ſhortly for Lord Melbourne, but Mrs. Baddeley wiſhed to ſee him firſt by accident, and ſaid ſhe went to the play with that view. Mr. P. ſaid his Lordſhip was in town, having met his coach-

man

man that day, and asked him. "And "the more ungrateful," said Mrs. Baddeley, "he is for being in town, and "not enquiring after me; but 'tis the "same with all men, from the highest "to the lowest. In order to obtain "their wishes, they will tell us weak "women ten thousand lies, and when "they grow tired of us, (as they soon "do,) will desert us, in search of some "new object. If a woman covets the "affection of a man, she must keep "him as distant as the servant she "pays. In this case, he will court her "attention, and do all in his power to "obtain it; but, no sooner does he "know, that the object of his choice "has an affection for him, than he will "presume upon it, and proceed from

"one

" one liberty to another; (which young " unexperienced minds think no harm " in); till, by degrees, he obtains what " he had in view, and will then, ingrate " like, desert the deluded female, and " leave her to her bitter reflections." Mr. P. said she judged hardly of the sex, and hoped she had not *always* found it so. " What do you think sir," said she, " of Lord Melbourne's behaviour, af- " ter the many oaths and protestations " he has made me? Could any one " suppose, that after having led me by " his bounty and the expectations he " had taught me to form, into expences " which I cannot answer, he could " slight me as he does? Such behavi- " our is wicked. If he loved me, as he " has often swore he does, he would

" not

" not treat me thus. If I have done any " thing to offend him, he ought to " leave me like a gentleman, not in- " volved as I am, but free from debt " and embarraſſment. My going to " Ireland, can be no plea for his con- " duct; for he has never given me a " guinea for theſe nine months paſt." I joined with her in this opinion, for his Lordſhip failed in his word to me; did not make me the ſettlement he promiſed; did not pay my rent as he agreed to do; nor give me a ſhilling of what Mrs. Baddeley owed me, though he often aſſured me he would pay the whole; nor did I ever receive a preſent from him, except the horſe I have before mentioned.

Mrs.

Mrs. Baddeley, finding ſhe could not ſee Lord Melbourne in public, ſent to Mr. P. and told him, if he thought proper, he might wait on his Lordſhip. He went and ſaw Lord Melbourne, who told him, that he knew well ſhe was in town, and was ſorry her affairs required any application to him; that he had made up his mind on the occaſion, and would not ſtir in them at all, nor would he advance one guinea upon the occaſion. Mr. P. told him, that it was on the ſtrength of his Lordſhip's promiſe, that he had embarked in her affairs, and paid ſo much money; conceiving his Lordſhip would repay him. Lord Melbourne ſaid, he was ſorry for that, but as he had acted, without any authority from him, he did not hold himſelf re-

ſponſible,

ſponſible, nor would he advance her any more money. "I now ſee," added his Lordſhip, "the impropriety of my "conduct with Mrs. Baddeley, and I "have done with her." Mr. P. replied, that as his Lordſhip's laviſh bounty to her, had taught her to form expectations ſhe never dreamt of, and had, of courſe, led her into expences that otherwiſe ſhe would never have thought of; it was but juſtice, if he left her, to extricate her from thoſe debts, that would otherwiſe be her ruin. Lord Melbourne returned, that was not *his* look-out; he had made his determination, which he did not mean to recede from, and that he would attend to no further application from her, either through him, or by any letter, meſſage,

or

or friend. "You will pleaſe, Sir, to "mention this to her," added he, "and "I wiſh you a good morning."

On his communicating this to Mrs. Baddeley, ſhe ſaid, ſhe did not believe after all, that he would have acted ſo; however, ſhe would not make herſelf unhappy, but endeavour to pay Mr. P. by ſome other mode. Mr. P. then took his leave, ſaid he had ſome diſagreeable buſineſs to ſettle that day, and was in hopes of getting ſome money of Lord Melbourne, to have enabled him to have done it as he wiſhed. I told him, I had the two hundred pounds untouched, which he gave me, and if that would be of any uſe, he might have it. He replied, it certainly would be of uſe, but

he

he feared that it would leave us without money. However, if I could ſpare one hundred and fifty pounds of it, he would take it; as he had one debt of Mrs. Baddeley's to pay that afternoon, or the law would run on to a great expence; "But," added he, "with this "one hundred and fifty pounds, and "what I have at home, I can contrive "to pay it." This made us a little uneaſy, for he plainly told us, that money muſt be got for him, ſome way or other, or he ſhould be a ruined man. When he was gone, we conſulted which was the beſt way to raiſe him ſome money, till things took a turn, and concluded, the readieſt mode would be to borrow it on the diamonds, and to pledge as many as would fetch ſix hun-

dred pounds. The following then, were the articles we fixed on, to help us to this money.

	£.	s.
Two diamond necklaces, which coſt	1050	0
A pair of drop brilliant ear-rings, do.	350	0
Ditto, roſe diamond ones, ditto -	100	0
Six pins, at 20l. each, ditto -	120	0
A ſtar, ditto - -	94	10
Three diamond rings, ditto -	100	0
	1814	10

All the above articles, which coſt more than eighteen hundred pounds, were pledged at a pawn-broker's, and it was with difficulty I could perſwade him to lend ſix hundred upon them, for the loan of which he was to have one hundred and eighty pounds a year; and,

as

as people of this profeſſion ſeldom lend more than a third of the value upon goods they take in, their riſk is little or none. It is thus they get rich, at the expence of the diſtreſſes of others; and as property ſo pledged, is ſeldom redeemed, it generally falls to the lot of the pawn-broker, who, after a certain period, can ſell it; and though the law obliges him to give the balance of the money it fetches, deducting principal and intereſt, to the owner; yet it is ſeldom enquired after.

Having this ſix hundred pounds, we ſent for Mr. P. and aſked him how much money would make matters eaſy at preſent; he ſaid, ſeven hundred pounds, with this he could ſettle with

ſome; and the law expences attending the reſt, would not be much, before we might have it in our power to give him more. He was ſorry, he owned, to be ſo troubleſome to us, but he was at that juncture ſo much embarraſſed, that he was almoſt diſtracted. We begged him not to be unhappy, that we had ſix hundred pounds ready for him, and the ſame way we got him that, we could get him a hundred more. He ſeemed pleaſed with this, and ſaid, if it was not impertinent and a ſecret, he ſhould like to know where we got it. Mrs. Baddeley told him, that, as ſhe was very unhappy to find him diſtreſſed on her account, ſhe had pledged ſome of her diamonds to procure it. He expreſſed a concern for this, but hoped ſhe would ſoon have

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it in her power to redeem them. *That*, she replied, would not trouble her, her chief anxiety was to do justice by him; for, that she could not endure the thought of his suffering for the kindness he had shewn to her. Mr. P. said, this sum would save him from ruin, for he now could manage for some time; acknowledged it as a favour done him, and bad us be happy, and keep up our spirits, and fear no one; for he would stand by us, and we might rely on him.

This arrangement set our minds at ease for some time; and as a masquerade was to be at Carlisle-house in a few days, we proposed to go to it. Mrs. Baddeley's dress was that of a shepherdess;

mine, a domino, with a man's hat and feather. She determined to keep her maſk on the whole evening, and ſhould ſhe ſee Lord Melbourne, to attack him. The rooms were crowded, and Mrs. Baddeley not known. She preſently diſcovered Lord Melbourne, ſitting down with a female, who had lived with him before he was married; her name was Harriet Powel; though, from him ſhe called herſelf Harriet Lamb, and enjoyed a ſettlement. He ſeemed in cloſe converſation with her for ſome time. Mrs. Baddeley ſat down at a little diſtance from them, unnoticed, but could not hear any of their converſation. At laſt, Harriet Powel left him, and Mrs. Baddeley got nearer to him, but did not ſay a word, till ſhe was within reach, when

when ſhe caught hold of his arm, with "Ah, rebel! Have I caught thee?"— "My God!" ſaid his Lordſhip, "Is "it poſſible? What, Mrs. Baddeley!" "Yes," returned ſhe, "it is even her." He requeſted that ſhe would not unmaſk, that he might have ſome converſation with her. He then aſked how ſhe came to ſend Mr. P. to him, to draw him into promiſes. She replied, ſhe did no more than ſhe thought right. "You may poſſibly think ſo," returned he, "but I think differently." He then enquired how ſhe had been entertained in her excurſion, and whether ſhe had met with the man of her heart. "That's not a queſtion, my Lord," ſaid Mrs. Baddeley, "after your neglect "of me, that you have any right to

"aſk,

" aſk. You have not acted by me as " I deſerve, and I find a pleaſure in " telling you ſo." He ſaid, it was *her* fault, not his, that he deſerted her; for, had ſhe not gone away, he ſhould not have thought of it. This ſhe denied; ſaid, ſhe had before made him acquainted with her ſituation, and that he had promiſed her, time after time, to relieve her, but had not kept his word; and, that owing to his being ſo long in the country, had it not been for the kindneſs of Mr. P. ſhe might have been in a jail; and, that that kindneſs had nearly ruined him. " Well," ſaid his Lordſhip, " if it had, he would " not be the firſt man, nor the laſt, " that had ruined, or would ruin him- " ſelf for a fine woman." That his

own

own fortune was conſiderably injured, and that he did not know whether it would enable him to pay ſo large a ſum as her debts amounted to; that, ſhe ſhould have retracted her extravagance, and not run on as ſhe had done; for, that ſhe had nearly ruined him; "However," continued he, "I am unwilling to leave you in diſtreſs, and will "ſee how far it is in my power to be "of ſervice to you, and will call at "your houſe in a few days for that "purpoſe." Mrs. Baddeley, requeſted him not to miſlead her any longer, for that his promiſes, unleſs he meant to keep them, might betray her into more difficulties. He then ſaid, he would not believe that ſhe would have gone off as ſhe did; that ſhe had never preſſed him

him for money, and did not ſuppoſe ſhe was in any great want of it. She replied, his Lordſhip's bounty had always placed her beyond the neceſſity of applying to him for money; and, that ſhe was unwilling to teaze him, and concluded, when it was convenient to him, he would ſupply her unaſked. He ſeemed indifferent to all this, but aſſured her, he would ſee her in a day or two, and begged her to leave him, leaſt he ſhould be known. "So," ſaid he, "God bleſs you;" and ſhe left him. When ſhe returned to me, and told me what paſſed, ſhe ſaid, "You ſee how "deceitful man is to the laſt: he ſeems "to have taken up again with his old "flame, and though he has promiſed to "call on me, I do not expect to ſee "him.

" him. However, if I was out of " debt, his loſs would not be great; " for, as a married man, I had always a " weight upon my ſpirits, whenever he " was with me; had he been ſingle, I " ſhould have loved him dearly, and " conſequently this treatment of me " would have broken my heart; ſo " that, perhaps, all things conſidered, " it may be as well as it is."

When we ſat down in the ſupper-room, a young lady, like a milliner, was very attentive to me, and ſaid, ſhe had ſome things to ſell to my ſhepherdeſs, after ſupper. A certain married lady, who ſat by us at ſupper-time, was very buſy, with her hands under the table, with one of the foreign Miniſters,

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he who was lame in one foot. He ſuffered this lady to do as ſhe pleaſed with him, ſo as to make herſelf happy; but, ſhe did no more than her Lord had often done with Mrs. Baddeley, at our houſe; ſo, it was no more than retaliation. This family does not live a hundred yards from Berkeley-ſquare, and have now a fine ſon and heir to their eſtate. We alſo ſaw a lady, eſteemed by all the men and women of ſtrict virtue, who, in a maſk, would accept of offers not becoming her, when ſhe thought herſelf not known. The lady I allude to, is a woman of faſhion, remarked for her beauty in all the print-ſhops, and a trifling accident that happened at a ball, at Lord Coventry's, that was huſhed up, whilſt ſhe was dancing. She being

being a maiden lady of repute, I will say no more of her than, that we have a noble General of her name, frequently attending his Majesty's person. This Lady, however, was not at that time a beauty without art; Mr. Warren's shop having received many a guinea for an ounce of pearl-powder, and five shillings for a small bottle of milk of roses, which added to her complexion. At the sight of these things, Mrs. Baddeley, (who never used any cosmetic) asked me, what I thought of our ladies of fashion, who ought to be a pattern to their sex. My reply was, if their example was followed, the inferior part of the sex would be much worse than they are; for many in low stations of life, who fall into errors, do it from distress;

whereas, theſe do it from inclination and depravity.

The milliner came hovering round us the whole evening, and we ſuſpected that we were known to her. Lord Palmerſton alſo took a ſeat near us; and, from a converſation we over-heard, found an intrigue was to take place, between him and a Lady near his own houſe, and an aſſignation made for that purpoſe. Theſe may be deemed ſcandalous anecdotes, but they are traits of the faſhionable world, and the bad effects of maſquerades. This milliner, we afterwards found, was Mr. Mills, the ſecond ſon of the Dean of Exeter, who found us out, and was afterwards a conſtant viſitor at our houſe. Mrs.

Baddeley

Baddeley was ſo warm, that ſhe found it neceſſary at one time to ſlip off her maſk, for a moment or two, and at this inſtant, ſhe was addreſſed by Mr. D. Smith, a timber-merchant, near Weſtminſter-bridge, and could not get rid of him, without conſenting to his waiting on us, in Grafton-ſtreet. He was a faſhionable young man, who was frequently with us afterwards, and made ſtrong love to Mrs. Baddeley; but, ſhe returned it with little more than common civility.

The next day Mr. Damer called, and ſaid, an odd incident happened at this maſquerade. Lord and Lady North were there, and her Ladyſhip talking unmaſked, with a friend, a gentleman

obſerved to Lord North, who was maſked, at the other end of the room, and to whom he was a ſtranger, that the fat lady who was talking, was Lady North, and wondered what his Lordſhip could ſee in her ugly face, to marry her. His Lordſhip replied, that beauty did not always ſhew itſelf in the face; the beauties of the mind, are what ſome men moſt admire; and then got up and walked away, and went and ſat down by his lady, which convinced the gentleman, that the perſon he had been talking to, was no other than Lord North himſelf; and how abſurd it is, for people to ſpeak ſo unguardedly in ſtrange company. "But he might have "ſaid more," continued Mr. Damer, "and not found himſelf affronted, for

"Lord

"Lord North is ſo good-humoured a "man, and of a temper ſo pleaſant, that "few things will affront him." He was once in a ſimilar ſituation in the drawing-room. The Queen was ſpeaking to Lady North, and a country gentleman, who came to Court one day to amuſe himſelf, aſked a perſon ſtanding near him, who that lady was; he replied, "Lady North." The gentleman remarked to him, that ſhe was a very ordinary woman; the other replied, (and this other was no other than Lord North himſelf,) "Yes, Sir, we are reckoned the moſt "homely couple that frequent the draw-"ing-room." Mr. Damer was one of beſt hearted young gentlemen I had the honour of knowing, and was always a friend to the diſtreſſed. I had a proof

of it this day; telling him I had a poor man's child, that I wiſhed to ſerve, and that his friends wanted him to be in ſome ſtable; and aſked him whether he could make room for him in his. He replied, that ſtables taught nothing but vice; that if his friends were poor and could not do better, he would give him ten pounds, to put him out to ſome trade. He gave me this money, the boy was put out apprentice with it, and he is now in buſineſs for himſelf, in a good way; and has reaſon to bleſs Mr. Damer's memory for his bounty.

Mr. Damer was no ſooner gone, than in came our cupboard gentleman, the Neapolitan Miniſter, in high ſpirits, and kept us laughing for an hour. He ſaid,

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he was looking for a wife, and believed he must do as Sir Patrick Blake did, who, though not a rich man, was a spirited one, and so determined to make his fortune, that he would go to some foreign country, and try to get a rich wife. For this purpose he took himself to the West-Indies, and hearing of a young handsome widow, went to the lady's house, and enquired for her, and no sooner did he see her, than he swore he loved her to distraction, and have her for his wife, he must and would. She declared she would not have him, and bad him leave her; but he persisted in his attack, ordered his baggage to be brought, and his hammock slung in her house, and swore he would never quit it any more. The lady was

in

in ſuch a rage, that ſhe vowed ſhe never would have him, and to convince him of it, took up a bible, and proteſted by that good book, that ſhe never would marry him. "Now Madam," cried Sir Paddy, "by Jaſus, I am ſure of "you; for what a woman ſwears ſhe "will do, ſhe never does; and of courſe, "what ſhe ſwears ſhe never will do, "ſhe is ſure to do." And as he fore-told, ſo it came to paſs; for he married this lady, and ſhe is now in England.

At this time, a young gentleman whoſe name was Corbet, and who was afterwards married to a daughter of the Earl of Bute, introduced himſelf to the knowledge of Mrs. Baddeley, and endeavoured to ingratiate himſelf, by intimating,

timating, that he was admitted to the favours of Mrs. Hobart, wife of the Honourable George Hobart, which did him little credit with us, from a knowledge that no part of that lady's conduct deserved reprehension, or ought to be lightly spoken of. He would fain have been received, among the list of those favourites, whom Mrs. Baddeley would occasionally indulge with a private *tête-à-tête*; but he did not seem to fall in with her ideas, and therefore soon received his final answer. Mr. Vaughan, of Golden-grove, Dorking, importuned, by letter, for the same favours, and met with a like repulse, being a married man, and as such, not suitable to her inclinations. He was followed by a Mr. Sheldon, a young gentleman who lived

lived in Berkeley-ſquare, who, from ſome perſonal accompliſhments, and an engaging addreſs, obtained her favour, and it was not without ſome trouble, that I got rid of him. Her going out of town put an end to their acquaintance, which was of ſhort continuance.

Her next admirer was a Mr. Gibbs, a ſilk-mercer, in partnerſhip with Carr and Ibbetſon, on Ludgate-hill. This perſon introduced himſelf to her, as ſilk-mercer to Her Majeſty, and having it in his power to ſhew her ſuch new faſhions as no houſe in London could boaſt of. She told him, ſhe dealt wholly with Mr. King. *That* he well knew, he ſaid, but he wiſhed to ſerve her only in part, and would give her what

what credit ſhe pleaſed. He was ſo importunate to ſerve her, that ſhe ſaid he might ſend her one or two of his neweſt faſhions. He ſent her ſeveral and attended with them himſelf. She agreed for as much as would make her two dreſſes. When his ſervant was gone, he told her they were paid for, as he begged her acceptance of them. She replied, that ſhe would not keep them on any ſuch terms. It ſignified little, for he left them; and this preſent enabled him to call often, and it was followed with other preſents afterwards; and from a continuance of his kindneſs, ſhe frequently received him. In ſhort, her new acquaintances, with the old, made the viſitors at our houſe ſo tireſome, that it was enough for one perſon to do, to attend

tend at the door; for it having got abroad, that Lord Melbourne had droped his connexions with her, numerous were the applications to ſucceed him: but ſhe was denied to all, except the Duke of Queenſberry, Lord Palmerſtone, Lord Pigot, Sir Thomas Mills, Mr. Damer, and a few others. Lord Pigot continued a valuable friend to her, till his unfortunate departure to the Eaſt-Indies, from which he never returned. The Duke of Queenſberry, was never very laviſh in his preſents to her, but always behaved with the politeſt attention, and greateſt reſpect. At one time he advanced her forty pounds, on account of a law-ſuit, in which ſhe was engaged; but this was all the money ſhe ever had of him, though he

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may be reckoned among the list of those that shared her best favours.

Lord Delaval, was the next that made a proposal. He could not boast, he said, of the first fortune in life, nor of so elevated a situation, as he could wish; but, he was ready to exert his utmost power to serve her, if she wanted it. This gentleman had a lady and five children, and as such was inadmissible. She experienced his friendship however, for some time afterwards, but he met with no other reward than her thanks, as will be shewn hereafter.

Mrs. Baddeley not having been in the receipt of any money, for some time past, and her expences daily running

on, Mr. P. ſtill paying, and accountable for all, it obliged him to be more importunate for money than he had yet been. Of courſe to decreaſe our expenditure, I requeſted her to conſent to my letting the houſe at Hammerſmith, and leſſening our expences in Grafton-ſtreet. She was totally averſe to this, and Mr. P. was of her way of thinking; that it would be betraying to the world a falling off, and tend to her diſcredit. She was always of opinion, that ſomething would turn up unexpectedly to put her in caſh, and it was folly to deſpond. This very expectation added to my uneaſineſs, being perſwaded if money *did* come, it would come in a way that I ſhould not like. Mr. P. however, could not wait under the ſame expectations; money

money he must have, and she was obliged to draw upon the pawn-broker for more cash. The remainder of her diamonds were pledged, and five hundred and fifty pounds borrowed on them. Mr. P. was made acquainted how the money was got, and he took it as before, saying only, he hoped she would soon be able to redeem them. Lord Melbourne never called or sent, and though Mrs. Baddeley frequently met him at public places, she was never noticed by him, but with a bow of respect, nor did he advance her a guinea afterwards; but to Stephen Sayer, Esq. Sheriff of London, in 1773, which I shall fully set forth, when I come to speak of his introduction; with a history of his bank-notes, and his ill wishes

to the preſent Royal Family, as his letter, &c. that will be introduced in the courſe of this work, will amply ſhew; alſo ſome account of his commitment to the Tower, where he was forbidden the uſe of pen, ink, and paper, and the manner in which he was furniſhed with the ſame, and his mode of conveying his letters where he pleaſed. This I, myſelf, made Lord North acquainted with, at the time Mr. Lawrence was in the Tower, under the ſame prohibitions; leſt he ſhould be accommodated with thoſe materials, to the injury of the ſtate; and I received his Lordſhip's thanks on the occaſion.

Mrs. Baddeley being now detached from any favourite, or any obligatory connexion,

connexion, I thought it a good time to adviſe her to live by her own induſtry, and follow her profeſſion; but ſhe would not liſten to it: the ſtage ſhe deteſted, and would ſooner die, ſhe ſaid, than return to it again; but, if I would go abroad with her, ſhe would try her fortune in a ſtrange country. I begged to know on what plan ſhe meant to proceed; ſhe replied, ſhe would get together what money ſhe could, and go to the Eaſt-Indies; where probably ſome rich man might take a fancy to her, and marry her; but, that till I was paid every ſhilling that was due to me, ſhe would give her hand to no man. She ſaid, ſhe was tired of this country, and her wiſh was to leave it; for, as her father and mother were dead, every at-

tachment to her native place was broken. Whilſt her mother lived, ſhe allowed her, as I have before obſerved, three guineas a week, and Mrs. Snow deſerved it at her hands; for, ſhe was a good chriſtian, a fond parent, and a ſincere friend. In anſwer to her plan of going abroad, I urged a great deal on it's uncertainty; that had we money enough to trade on, and ſhe was diſpoſed to follow ſome occupation, it might require a conſideration; but that, in the preſent ſtate of things, it was abſurd to beſtow a thought on it: that I had a family to think of; and though, from my affection to her, I had a great deal neglected them, yet, whilſt I was in England, I could occaſionally ſee them, and do ſomething for them; but that if there could

could be any channel of certainty propoſed, I would not refuſe going to the Eaſt-Indies with her, or to any other part of the globe. "Well then," returned ſhe, "let us ſhare our fate together, "and ſtay where we are. As to the "men, I have been deceived by them, "and will endeavour to be even with "them, ſome way or other." I then urged again a leſs expenſive eſtabliſhment, and a more confined way of living. This ſhe would not hear of; for, ſaid ſhe, "Leſſen my conſequence, and "it is all over with me. I will purſue "my pleaſures, and look out for ſome "new friend." This I obſerved was ſtill going on wrong. "No," replied ſhe, "it cannot be wrong, where it has "a good end in view. Do you think,

"my

" my dear Steele, I am totally void of " feeling? Can I obliterate from my " remembrance, and from my heart, " what you have done for me, and how " much I am bound in juſtice, both to " you and your's?" I intreated her, for the preſent, to think only for herſelf, and not to ſuffer me or mine to give her any pain; that I could go into ſome way of buſineſs, that would maintain both her and me comfortably, and I had no objections to make the attempt; that whatever I embarked in, ſhould be in my name, and ſhe ſhould live like a gentlewoman; that if it was neceſſary, I would work night and day for her, and ſhe ſhould enjoy half the profits of my induſtry: ſhe ſaid, ſhe would ſooner do this, than go on the ſtage any more; but,

but that it would be a dreadful ſound to her, to hear it ſaid, "Poor Baddeley is "at laſt fallen from all her pomp and "ſplendor into a ſhop!" I told her my plan was not a mean one; but, as we had many friends to open ſome warehouſe, on a reſpectable footing, and that ſhe need not appear in it; and that I was perſwaded, ſhe would experience more real happineſs in one month, in this honeſt way of getting a living, than in all the ſplendor ſhe had enjoyed. She promiſed to conſider of it, and ſaid, it was time enough to do this, when all other reſources failed; ſhe would firſt try whether ſome more eligible thing would not occur. I gave her to underſtand, that I was very ſerious in the plan I propoſed, and wiſhed it from my ſoul; for, that

that I was heartily tired of her preſent way of life, and ſhe ought to be ſo too. "True," replied ſhe, "but yet I can-"not conſent to give up all my plea-"ſures in the prime of my life; I "muſt enjoy their ſweets a little lon-"ger." Then from a caſt of deſpondency, ſhe roſe into an uncommon flow of ſpirits, ſaid, ſhe would dreſs for the opera, and whilſt the hair-dreſſer was fetching, ſhe would ſing me a ſong, and warbled forth the following.

Alas! 'Tis in vain my diſtreſs to diſſemble!
I wiſh for to go, yet in going I tremble,
No friend to ſupport me, no pilot but you.
No friend, &c.

Whilſt ſinging this ſong, ſhe took me in her arms, hung round my neck, and cried;

cried; and I ſympathized with her, and told her, if ſhe would confide in me for her pilot, I would ſoon ſteer her into a ſafe harbour, in which ſhe might lay ſnug and ſecure from the dangers of a ſtormy world. The hair-dreſſer came, and put an end to our converſation. This kind of gentry, having acceſs to the ladies, frequently hear things in one houſe, which they carry to another. Ladies are too apt to converſe with theſe fellows, and aſk queſtions; and, for every piece of intelligence they communicate, they are rewarded with news in return; ſo, that many women are as much diverted with their ſlander, as embelliſhed by their art. This hair-dreſſer dreſſed many at the theatre, and uſed to entertain us with the ſcandal

of

of the green-room. "There was a "ſtrange piece of work," ſaid he, "la- "dies, at the play-houſe, laſt night, "whilſt I was dreſſing Mrs. Abington. "Mrs. Scott, the wife of Lord Delo- "raine's brother, fell into fits, becauſe "Mr. Brereton took more than uncom- "mon notice of Miſs Hopkins," (to whom he is ſince married) "and no- "thing could recover the dying nymph, "but the ſweet odour of her Florizel's "breath, and a gill glaſs of brandy." Whilſt we were laughing at this ſtory, a man came to ſpeak to Mrs. Baddeley, and ſaid he muſt ſee her; it was in vain, therefore, to deny her, for he had buſineſs of ſome conſequence to impart. I went down to the man, who addreſſed me with, "I have a writ againſt you,

"Madam,

"Madam, for a debt to a linen-dra-
"per." I desired to see the writ, and saw it was against Mrs. Baddeley.—
"Why did not the man send me his
"bill?" said I. "That, Madam," replied he, "is *your* look-out, not *mine*.
"Come, you must go with me; I have
"a coach for you, and my men are in
"waiting." "If I pay you the money," said I, "have you any further demand?"
"Paying the money," returned he,
"will not do, there are three actions
"more out against you, and you must
"go with me." Hearing this, I thought it best, in order to get him out of the house, to go with him. Accordingly I called for my cloak and bonnet, and ordered my maid to bring them, who I knew would understand me. "Tell

" my daughter," ſaid I, " I am gone " to ſettle a little matter, for which I " am arreſted; that, I am going to " Mr. P's. and ſhall be back in two " hours." When I was in the coach, I requeſted the officer to ſend away his man, and to take me to Mr. P. which, with the promiſe of a guinea, I prevailed on him to do. We found him at home; I winked at him, and ſaid, " This man, Sir, has arreſted me for a " debt of fifty pounds, due to a linen-" draper, in Fleet-ſtreet; and tells me, " there are three writs more againſt me, " and that I muſt go to his houſe." He aſked the officer at whoſe ſuit thoſe three writs were; but, he could not inform him; for he believed it was a dead ſet againſt Mrs. Baddeley, and aſked Mr. P.

how

how he meant to act. "I shall bail "them all," said he. "You cannot," replied the officer, "till I know the "amount of the actions. Give me the "name of the bail, and come to my "house, where you will find the lady, "and I will then search the office." Mr. P. begged him to leave me with his wife, but he surlily refused, saying, he had business at home, and must go, and that I must go with him; "And don't think," addressing himself to Mr. P. "that you "will bail it so easily, for I tell you "again, it is a *dead set:* therefore, "Madam," added he to me, "you "must make yourself happy at my "house. It is three weeks to term, and "in that time you may look about "you." I asked him, what he meant

by a *dead set?* He told me, that by that term, he meant, that all my creditors were determined to come upon me, and as ſoon as he had me in cuſtody; that he learned this from the linen-draper, who ſaid, the nobility, when once he had got hold of me, would pay like wild-fire, and, that he ſhould be well rewarded for his pains; ſo that I need not be afraid of a jail. "I "take many hundreds," ſaid he, "in "the courſe of my buſineſs, and few "go to jail; for I always ſtand their "friend, and will your's; for, as ſoon "as you are at my houſe, I will go "round among your creditors, and ſee "if I cannot make matters up."— "Why,"—ſaid Mr. P "what a pretty "raſcal you are! After you have got

"an

" an unhappy perſon in your cuſtody;
" under a pretence of making matters
" up, you go round among his credi-
" tors, and ſeek for freſh detainers.—
" There is the guinea the lady promiſed
" you, but get out of my houſe this
" moment, or I'll play the devil with
" you; for you have no buſineſs with
" this lady, and ſhe ſhall not go with
" you." The fellow replied, d—n the guinea, he did not value it; if the lady would not go with good will, he would make her go. I then told him, my name was not *Baddeley*, but *Steele*; that Mrs. Baddeley was in Ireland, and that I would not go with him. His anſwer was, " None of your geers, Ma-
" dam; I am not to be humbugged,
" and muſt be more ſatisfied, before I

" let you go." I aſked him what ſatis-
faction he wiſhed for. He ſaid, to go
with him to the plantiff, and if he was
content to let me go, he would have no
objections; but, that he would not re-
leaſe me on any other terms. Mr. P.
ſaid, " If you will not believe me,
" friend, on the word of a man of hon-
" our, you muſt take the conſequences;
" and, if you are obſtinate, this affair
" will end in your ruin; for, before
" you ſhall take her away, you ſhall
" have my life. Mrs. Steele came with
" you, in order to learn what writs you
" had out againſt Mrs. Baddeley. Mrs.
" Steele is as well known in this ſtreet
" as I am; go to Dr. Fordyce's, and
" bring any one of the family here, and
" you will ſoon be convinced." Whilſt

we

we were talking, Sir John Eliot paſſed by; I called him in, and the firſt words he ſaid, were, "My dear Mrs. Steele, "how do you do? Is Mrs. Baddeley "returned from Ireland?" He aſked me a few more queſtions, ſaid he was in haſte, wiſhed me a good morning, and took his leave. When he was gone, the officer ſaid, "Now, Madam, "I am convinced; I am ſenſible of "my miſtake, and beg your pardon: "had you told me your name was not "*Baddeley*, when I was at your houſe, "it would have ſaved yourſelf a great "deal of trouble, and me much time; "for loſs of time is to me an injury. "You may rely on what I ſay, that "there is a plot againſt Mrs. Baddeley, "and happy for her that ſhe *is* in Ire-"land."

" land." We let him go off, and took a coach home, fearful any other writ might be ſerved upon her. In our way, Mr. P. ſaid, " Some of her creditors, " who arreſted me, are now going to do " the ſame by her, and therefore, for her " ſafety, it is neceſſary that you ſhould " take her, for a few days, out of town." I told him, I could take her to my houſe near Henley, and ſay we were going to Portſmouth. He adviſed this meaſure, and ſaid, as ſoon as his friend, in the Sheriff's-office, let him know what writs were out againſt her, he would endeavour to ſettle them. When we reached home, we ordered the door not to be opened to any one; but, to anſwer perſons, who knocked, from the area. Mrs. Baddeley was ſo terrified at

what

what we told her, and at the apprehenſion of future writs, that ſhe was eager to go away. Mr. P. ſaid, if ſhe was out of town, a few days might ſettle every thing. It was agreed, that ſhe ſhould go in a hackney-coach to the New Inn, Weſtminſter-bridge, where we ſhould take a poſt-chaiſe for Henley. Mr. P. fetched the coach himſelf, that he might ſee no perſon was about; we all got into it, and by way of blind, ordered the coachman to drive to Marybone, for our ſervants knew nothing of the plan. As ſoon as he got into Bond-ſtreet, he ordered the man to drive to Weſtminſter-bridge. Mr. P. now left us, but adviſed me not to return for a day or two, that it might not be ſuſpected, that Mrs. Baddeley was near

London,

London, leaſt they ſhould trace her out; and ſaid he would go back to my houſe and tell my ſervants that I ſhould not be home that night. It was eight at night when we left London, yet we reached my houſe at Henley at one in the morning, though it was thirty-five miles from town. Here we found Mr. Gill, who was conſtantly backwards and forwards between that and Oxford, enquiring for letters, and bringing others; for, though I have not mentioned his name lately, he was like a mad-man about her, and had been anſwered and kept eaſy by letters, meſſages, and other means; for ſhe had not as yet declared her intention not to marry him, determining to wean him from the thoughts of it by degrees. He was in bed and aſleep, when

we

we arrived, and did not hear us; and, when he waked in the morning, and was informed of Mrs. Baddeley's being there, he was in tranſports of joy. She was happy to ſee him, and this accidental interview renewed in her mind, what ſhe had almoſt forgotten; for ſhe had not even mentioned his name for a length of time. She obſerved to me, that he looked as handſome as an angel. I was ſorry for this, as from one evil, we fell into another. No two on earth ſeemed more happy that day, than did he and ſhe. He did not upbraid her with any neglect, but all was right and well with him. I ſtaid the next night with her, and ordered her to act prudently with Mr. Gill, in my abſence. She aſſured me ſhe would; but ſaid, his being there would

would be a great comfort, when I was gone. In the morning, I ſet off on my return, and when I got home, was told the man who had been with me two days before, (this was the bailiff) had been there, and ſaid, he muſt ſee Mrs. Baddeley, and abſolutely ran all over the houſe, and behaved very impudently. I told my ſervants, it was of little conſequence, and did not wiſh to hear more about him; for, that he had no buſineſs there. I then ſaid, I would now ſettle with them. They were panic-ſtruck at this, and hoped I was not going to diſcharge them. I told them, I meant no ſuch thing; but, as I owed them three months wages, I choſe to pay them: for, it is always prudent not to be in their debt, and to keep them

them at a proper diſtance. This is the only way to command reſpect. I ſent for Mr. P. and conſulted with him. He told me, he had ſearched the office, and found there were three writs out, beſides the linen-draper's, and it was the beſt way now to bail them, and thus gain time to pay them. I requeſted him to do it, and he promiſed me he would as ſoon as poſſible. He recommended it, that Mrs. Baddeley ſhould write to ſome of her friends, and try if ſhe could not get ſome money. I ſaid, ſhe might, if ſhe would; but I knew ſhe had ſuch a ſpirit, that it would be ſome trouble to perſwade her to it. He ſaid, Lord Melbourne was not a man of honour, to act as he did; and, as to Lord Coleraine, he ought to be poſt-

ed. I told him, I ſhould want money in a few days, to which he replied, I might have ſome now, if I pleaſed, for he had fifty pounds about him, and it was at my command, and more if I would have it. I took the fifty pounds, and ſaid, that would anſwer all my preſent purpoſes. Whilſt we were in converſation, the officer came again, and I begged Mr. P. to ſee him with me, that we might hear what he had to ſay. The man was admitted, and ſaid, he wanted to ſee Mrs. Baddeley. "For "ſhame," ſaid Mr. P. to him, "how "could you run over the houſe as you "did the other day? Mrs. Baddeley is "not here, and if ſhe had been, you ought "not to have done as you did." He replied, that if he could not ſee Mrs. Baddeley,

Baddeley, he was authorized, by the plaintiff, to tell Mrs. Steele; that if she would give him her note for the amount of the debt and cash at one month, he would drop the action against Mrs. Baddeley. "No," said Mr. P. without waiting for my answer, "if he will take "her note at two months, I dare say "she will give it, but not else." "And "why my note," said I, "as Mrs. "Baddeley, at that time, will pay it "herself?" The plaintiff, he returned, would not be satisfied, unless I joined in the note, as a further security. "How-"ever," added he, "if you will give "me two guineas, I will take your "single note at two months, and give "Mrs. Baddeley a discharge." I agreed to this, and gave him my note, and

away he went. Mr. P. ſaid, this was better than bailing the action, as it was attended with leſs trouble and leſs expence; "but," continued he, "you muſt "prepare to pay it when due. Others "of your creditors would be glad to "ſettle their demands in the ſame way; "but I would not adviſe you to give "your notes to any, but thoſe whom I "ſhall point out; for ſuch acts will in-"volve you, and you are hurt enough "already."

When Mr. P. was gone, I ſat down to conſider who were Mrs. Baddeley's friends, and from whom ſhe was moſt likely to get money, on an application; but could not tell who to fix on, as few men will beſtow their money without a

reward

reward in view; I gave up the thought, therefore, till I could ſee her. I now put up a few things for Mrs. Baddeley, ordered the phaeton, ſet off at four o'clock that afternoon for Oxfordſhire, and reached my houſe at eight. I told her what I had done, and of the fifty pounds I had received, made her put twenty pounds in her pocket, leſt if ſhe ſhould be traced out, ſhe might be ill uſed for want of money to bribe the officers. My deſign was to return the next morning, but ſhe ſaid, I muſt not take her with me, till all things were ſettled. She added, that ſhe was now undone, for that ſhe was more in love with Mr. Gill, than ever; that he was ſo good, and ſo attentive to her, that ſhe had not a wiſh, but it was gratified

before ſhe could well name it; but bad me not be unhappy, for ſhe ſhould do nothing imprudent. I ſet off for town again, at five in the morning, and was in Grafton-ſtreet at nine. Whilſt I was at breakfaſt, a letter came for Mrs. Baddeley, from a perſon unknown, requeſting the favour of being admitted to drink tea with her; and it ſhould be to her benefit, as he flattered himſelf his rank and ſituation in life, would not leſſen him in her eſtimation. I conceived this to be the ſcheme of ſome Sheriff's officer, therefore ordered the man in, and told him he might take the letter back, from whence he brought it. The man ſaid he brought it from a gentleman, at a coffee-houſe, whom he believed to be a Lord, though he did not

know

know him. The manner and appearance of the fellow convinced me I was right in my conjectures; I therefore ſealed the letter, and returned it to him, ſaying, we never received ſuch kind of letters. He took it and went away, and I ordered my man ſecretly to follow him. He traced him to an ale-houſe, where, after ſtaying ſome time, he ſaw him come out with Phillips, the officer. This ſcheme did not avail him, as I was too much on my guard; it only ſhews us the arts theſe men make uſe of, to accompliſh their ends.

Mr. P. ſoon after came, and ſaid, he had not, as yet, bailed the actions; as he expected ſome money in a few days, and thought it beſt to pay the debt, particularly

cularly as it would ſave Mrs. Baddeley ſome pounds. He told me that her creditors behaved to him moſt cruelly, and put him to all the expence they could.

Mr. Hobart paid me a viſit the ſame day, and ſaid that Lord Coleraine was after a Mrs. Garnier, a very handſome woman, and much admired by the *bon ton*. Lord Albermarle had noticed her till his death, and left her, by all accounts, as a gentleman ſhould do, in a good ſituation, for ſhe always appeared in a genteel line, and was much the gentlewoman in her manner and deportment.

Preſently came Lord Lyttleton, to enquire when Mrs. Baddeley would be in town,

town, and to tell me that his poor friend Johnſon was ſo much in love with her, that he was worn to a ſkeleton, and lay at the point of death. "Nay," added his Lordſhip, "by his raving, as he does at "times, and repeating her name ſo of-"ten, I think he muſt be out of his "mind; indeed I am very ſorry for him, "as he is a good fellow, and has one of "the beſt of hearts." On my aſking who he was; his Lordſhip ſaid, he was an Iriſh gentleman, and a man of ſome family and fortune; that he was then at Bath, and he feared would never return; that he got his illneſs by cold, in parading our ſtreet night and day; which he did for a long time, before Mrs. Baddeley went to Ireland, and for ſome time after, not knowing ſhe was from home;

and

and when he heard ſhe was gone, he watched me for a long time after, hoping by that means to find her out. I remember well, that a perſon followed me about, when I was from home, but conceived it to be one of Lord Coleraine's ſpys. Lord Lyttleton, in taking leave, begged I would oblige him ſo far as to let him know when Mrs. Baddeley returned, which I promiſed.

His Lordſhip's viſit was followed by one from Mr. King, the mercer, and, who was full of his kind enquiries and invitations to King-ſtreet, ſaying, he could ſhew us ſome very beautiful ſilks. He then began about Mr. P. ſaying, he fought him at law, and it was a pity Mrs. Baddeley had put her affairs into his

his hands. I remonſtrated with him on the ſubject, laid the fault upon him, and ſaid, Mr. P. would have paid him long ſince, if Mrs. Baddeley had enabled him; perſecuting him therefore, was perſecuting her. Had he known this he ſaid, he would not have proceeded againſt Mr. P. and was willing to give him further time. He then aſked ſome queſtions reſpecting Lord Melbourne, but finding me not diſpoſed to anſwer him, dropped the ſubject. I could not divine the cauſe of this viſit from Mr. King; indeed I began to ſuſpect every body.

Mr. Lara, the Jew, having taken one of Mr. P's. notes, given on Mrs. Baddeley's account, and having alſo a letter

of

of attorney from her creditors, to ſue out a writ againſt her; I thought it adviſeable to ſee him, and try what I could do with him. This was for a debt of two hundred and ten pounds, for diamonds, not worth half the money, which ſhe purchaſed one day through a whim, without having any occaſion for them. I ſaw this man, and talked him into a compliance to wait two months, by taking a freſh note from me and Mr. P. jointly: to this Mr. P. conſented, and thus two of the writs, out of four, were compromiſed for a time. I wiſhed Mr. P. to let me try what I could do with the other two; but he adviſed me by no means to think of it, as it would be involving myſelf, and might probably bring on my ruin. I told him, that though

though my ruin was certain to enſue, I would do it, if I thought it would relieve Mrs. Baddeley; nay, that my love for her was ſo great, that I would cheerfully riſk my life, in the ſame cauſe. He ſaid it was a ſtrange infatuation, which he did not know how to account for; that raſh as it was, he could not but commend me; as he was perſwaded, it muſt ariſe from affection only; but that, though it militated againſt him, he ſhould not urge me to it; nay, he begged I would not join him in any ſecurities, as he foreſaw what might be the conſequence, and he had my welfare too much at heart, to wiſh it. "Indeed," continued he, "for your "ſake, I wiſh I had never ſeen Mrs. "Baddeley; for I fear ſhe will be my

" ruin, and it would add to my unhap-
" pineſs, to have you involved with
" me." I thanked him for his good wiſhes, but hoped he would have no reaſon to repent of what he had done for her; and that he muſt excuſe me in ſaying, that was I certain a jail would be my portion for life, I would ſubmit to it, provided I could extricate her from the difficulties ſhe was then in; and I would not reſt till I ſaw her out of them." " I do not wiſh," ſaid I, " to
" draw you, or any other perſon into
" trouble on her account, and you are
" ſenſible I have put myſelf to incon-
" veniencies to act juſtly by you."

I told Mr. P. I meant to ſee her as the next day, and wiſhed I could with ſafety

ſafety bring her back with me. He by no means adviſed this, till the other writs were ſettled, but ſaid, if I would permit him, he would accompany me. This did not pleaſe me, though I knew not how to avoid it. I long ſaw through his conduct, and perceived he wiſhed for an opportunity to talk to me, on a ſubject I was unwilling to hear, and which, by a variety of means, I had hitherto contrived to prevent; though, at times, he had been laviſh in his compliments, and it was with difficulty I could reſtrain him. I had too much on my mind to attend to him, or any other man, and prudence enough to guard againſt words I ought not to hear. I had daily before my eyes, a leſſon dearly bought and paid for; and let the fate of

Mrs. Baddeley be a leſſon to all young minds, not to ſtray from the paths of virtue; for, with all the beauty ſhe poſſeſſed, with all the ſplendor ſhe enjoyed, and all the admiration ſhe met with, ſhe fell at laſt a ſacrifice, and lived to be unnoticed, by thoſe who once adored her. In ſhort, let them learn from the heroine of theſe memoirs, to be wary and circumſpect, and ſtand upon their guard againſt the ſeduction of men.

Though Mr. P. wiſhed to accompany me into Oxfordſhire, under a pretext of ſeeing Mrs. Baddeley, I contrived to go there alone, and that he ſhould follow me the day after; and, I rode there on horſe-back, that he might have no opportunity of returning with me to town.

town. When I told Mrs. Baddeley, that Mr. P. would be with her the next day, she said, she would contrive to send Mr. Gill off, that they might not meet. She brought this about very well. Mr. Gill went to Oxford, and Mr. P. took his place for one day. Mrs. Baddeley told him, she wished to be in London; but, rather than distress him, she would stay a month where she was. —He seemed pleased with this, and said, it would give him time; his money would then come round, and he should be able to settle with her creditors better; little thinking she had a favourite there to detain her. Mrs. Baddeley saw, as well as I did, the end of all Mr. P's. civility and kindness, and was unhappy I had put myself so much in

his power, as to join him in any ſecuri-ties. Though ſhe was ſure the buſineſs would terminate in a quarrel between him and me, ſhe wiſhed me, for her ſake, to carry on matters with him as ſmooth as I could, and ſteer off the breach as long as poſſible. I told her, I was prepared for any thing he might ſay to me, and would manage him ſo, as not to make him my enemy. "My fears," ſaid I, "are more for you than myſelf, "leſt you ſhould act imprudently with "Mr. Gill." She frankly confeſſed, that ſhe weakly fell from one error to another, and that ſhe loved him too much to be happy out of his ſight. That marry him ſhe could not, but was as happy with him then, as if ſhe had been married: in ſhort, ſhe gave me

to

to underſtand, that had ſhe been his wife, ſhe could not have admitted him to greater freedoms. I grew angry with her, but it anſwered no purpoſe. "If "there is any ſin in it," ſaid ſhe, "I "glory in it, and muſt ſin on, and love "my Joſeph," (for this was his chriſtian name.) It was now too late to call back her imprudence, and I found it more to her intereſt to get her away; but, ſhe raved about him, ſaid it was heaven to be in his company, and hell without him; that ſhe muſt end her days with him, and the like.

The next morning, Mr. P. urged me to return with him in his poſt-chaiſe, which I could not avoid doing; and, I got home, without hearing any thing I diſliked.

disliked. He made an attempt three or four times in the journey, but I always contrived to evade the subject. On my return, I found Lord Harrington had called, and also Mr. Damer, Sir Thomas Mills, Mr. Mayne the banker, and some other gentleman, whom my maid did not know. I fear I shall tire my reader's patience, by dwelling on the subject of Mr. P.; but, it is indispensably necessary, to shew him how the matter ended with him; must, therefore, call upon his candor on this relation, as it will not be long before the mystery opens; and the consequence, though it may give pain to a feeling mind, will be an instructive lesson to the world, and teach the incautious, not

to

to put too much confidence in the greateſt plauſibility.

On my ſaying, that I could not be happy without Mrs. Baddeley, and expreſſing a wiſh to get her home immediately, Mr. P. ſettled the other action out againſt her, the next day; brought me the papers to convince me of it, and ſaid, ſhe might now return when ſhe pleaſed. Theſe papers were only ſuch as allowed more time, for the debts were not paid; the writs, however, againſt her were diſcharged. He now took an opportunity to ſay, he had much pain at heart. I replied, "I have "pains there too, which nothing but "money can relieve." He told me, his were of a different kind, that they pro-

proceeded from love, and love of me; and if, after all he had done for Mrs. Baddeley, (which, from the firſt, he did to oblige me, and convince me of his regard) I did not promiſe him a return of ſuch affection, ſhe might get who ſhe would to pay him, for he would have done with her, and give himſelf no more trouble about her. My reply was not ſuch as he was pleaſed with; yet, as things were, I was far from uncivil, and ſaid all I could to moderate his paſſions; told him, I did not reject his ſuit from diſlike, but, that my ſituation in life put a negative on it; and, I flattered myſelf, no behaviour of mine could give him, or any one, cauſe to ſuppoſe he might ſucceed with me in his wiſhes. In ſhort, to enter

ter into all the converſation that paſſed between us on this head, as it relates not to the hiſtory of Mrs. Baddeley's life, would be deviating from the ſubject; let it ſuffice to ſay, that his determination was, to give her up, and ſuffer her to be torn to pieces, unleſs I complied. Dreading all this, I made uſe of deception, told him, that perſons in my circumſtances ought to weigh the matter well, before they determined. He replied, he would give me any time, in reaſon, to conſider of it, ſo as I thought proper to afford him any hopes. By this mode of acting, I gained time, but not without the mortification, at times, of being obliged to liſten to his fulſome addreſſes. To avoid it as much as poſſible, I ſet off to fetch Mrs. Baddeley

deley home, which I effected, with great reluctance on her part, and a promiſe on mine, that ſhe ſhould go every week to ſee Mr. Gill. She was, however, happy on her return to Grafton-ſtreet; and, as there was to be a maſked ball, at the Pantheon, the week following, we began to think of our dreſſes. I told her, that what ſhe had propheſied of Mr. P. had come to paſs, and begged, that whenever he came, ſhe would make a point of not leaving us together. She did this for ſome days, and it freed me from his nonſenſe; but, he ſoon ſaw into this, and came ſo often, as to know every thing we did; when out, when at home, what we eat, and what we drank.—Finding no opportunity to talk to me alone, he

became

became very preſſing for money, and told Mrs. Baddeley, that, if ſhe and I would give him a bond, for ſeven hundred pounds, payable in one year; he ſhould, by endorſing it, be able to borrow the money upon it, at a ſmall premium, of a friend of his, a Jew in the city. She agreed to this; but I told him I did not like bonds, they were things too ſerious to trifle with; for, that I had known a family ruined, by incautiouſly ſigning one; and wiſhed he would not urge either of us to execute it. Mrs. Baddeley ſaid, if I would not, ſhe would. Mr. P. upbraided me much on my unwillingneſs, thus to ſerve him and Mrs. Baddeley; forgeting the advice he had but a little time before given me, on this ſubject. Knowing

that I was to go out that afternoon, to ſee one of my children, that was ill at ſchool, he invited himſelf to tea with Mrs. Baddeley, and brought a bond with him, which ſhe executed in my abſence; and, on my return, begged me, in the moſt affectionate language, to oblige her by ſigning it alſo; ſaying, ſhe had read the bond and ſigned it. "Have *you* read it?" ſaid I,—"Then I "will read it too." "Good God," replied ſhe, "is not my reading it ſuf-"ficient? Sure, you would not doubt "Mr. P's. veracity, and mine!"—This was ſufficient: I had plunged into every thing through love to her, and it was only plunging deeper. I took the pen and ſigned it. He then ſaid, he ſhould receive the money in a week, and Mrs. Baddeley

Baddeley might rely on it, that he would bring her the two hundred pounds ſhe wanted. At this time, Mr. P. had given his ſecurities for her, to the amount of two thouſand pounds; ſeven hundred pounds, therefore, was but about a third of it.

When he was gone, I aſked her, ſeriouſly, whether ſhe had read the bond: ſhe aſſured me ſhe had, and it was for ſeven hundred pounds only, and, that as he had been ſo diſappointed in his wiſhes, reſpecting me, and ſhe was ſo much in his debt, ſhe and I could do no leſs than we had, to keep him in good humour. "We had a great deal of talk," added ſhe, "about you; he has been "telling me, how much he is in love

" with you, and how unhappy you have
" made him. I told him, I was ſorry
" for it; and, aſked him, why he did
" not fall in love with me? He ſmil-
" ed, and ſaid he *did* love me, but not
" ſo much as you; and, that no man
" could help his feelings. If he loved
" me," added ſhe, " I would gratify
" him in any thing; for I would do all
" in my power to ſerve him and oblige
" him, and that from a ſenſe of grati-
" tude." Here Mrs. Baddeley pleaſed me leſs than ever; for ſhe became an advocate for him, urging me to countenance him, ſaying, I ſhould thus ſecure him for life, a friend to both of us: that, he was far from a diſagreeable man, and that he was a perſon *ſhe* could love. I grew warm upon this occaſion,

told

told her what I had done to ſhew my affection for her, of courſe it was not to be diſputed; that, I had given her my little fortune, which I had for years worked for, and did not repine; that, I had alſo forſaken my huſband, neglected my family, and given her myſelf, and would now give up my life, if neceſſary, to ſerve her; but, to part with my honour, which was dearer to me than life, I would not conſent to. I was ſo angry with her, that I cried. She then begged my pardon, ſaid, ſhe did it merely to try me, and was only in joke. This I am perſwaded was not the caſe, there was a little ſelfiſhneſs at bottom that might ariſe from fear, or ſome other cauſe; as no part of her life gave

me any reaſon to ſuppoſe ſhe wiſhed me to follow her example.

I muſt now inform my reader, that Mrs. Baddeley, having ſome doubts that her coach and horſes would, by ſome means or other, be taken from her, and, being a married woman, could bring no action to recover them; did, ſome months before this, beg Mr. P. to draw up a receipt for her to ſign, making over the carriage and horſes to him, as if he had purchaſed them. He drew up ſuch a paper, and ſhe ſigned it; and, as I thought it then a matter of little conſequence, I did not oppoſe it. She had made up a very handſome maſquerade dreſs, but the diamonds were

were wanting to complete it; these I consented to her having, and the following articles were hired for her, by me;

Of Mr. Drury, jeweller, in the Strand—a pair of brilliant ear-rings.

Of Mr. Bellas, Pall-Mall—a large diamond bow and pins.

Of Mr. Dingwell, St. James's-street—three diamond necklaces.

For her design was to put the three necklaces together, and make a belt of them, from her shoulder to her waste, with the bow at the end. She said, that by wearing these ornaments, she should still preserve her credit with the public, and those to whom she was indebted; and, that as many of her creditors

ditors would be at the maſquerade, if they ſaw ſhe had ſtill ſome property, they would not be ſo apt to diſtreſs her. This conſideration led me to acquieſce in the expence, for ſhe was to pay two and a half per cent. for the uſe of them for that night; and the value of them was ſome thouſands. On the day of this maſquerade, when her hair was dreſſed, and I was under the hands of the hair-dreſſer, we heard a noiſe in the houſe I had never heard before. I ran to the ſtairs-head, and found ten men running up. One of them puſhed by me, and ran to Mrs. Baddeley, the reſt followed, and, for my life, I could not conceive what they wanted. Poor Baddeley was ſo terrified, that ſhe fainted. The fellows did not declare their

buſineſs,

buſineſs, but told her, they would not uſe her ill. On my aſking who they were, the one that firſt puſhed me, and ran by me, ſaid, he was a Sheriff's officer, and that he did arreſt Mrs. Baddeley. "At whoſe ſuit?" ſaid I, "— I will bail it." He ſaid, the action was not bailable, of courſe ſhe muſt go with him; that her coach would be preſently at the door, and ſhe muſt go to his houſe in Southampton-ſtreet, near Chancery-lane. Mrs. Baddeley cried ſo much, and ſcreamed, that I could not read the writ, though the fellow held it out. At laſt, however, I found it to be an execution againſt her, for one thouſand ſix hundred pounds, and the ſame againſt my goods for four hundred pounds, at the ſuit of Mr. P. on a bond

and

and judgment, with a warrant of attorney, ſigned by us both to him, which bond, inſtead of ſeven hundred pounds, and payable in a year, as we ſuppoſed, was made out, or altered for two thouſand pounds, and no time allowed. I aſked her, when ſhe was a little pacified, if ſhe read it before ſhe ſigned it, and ſhe declared ſhe did; though afterwards I found ſhe had not. "Read it or "not," ſaid the officer to her, "it is the "ſame, you muſt now pay it to me;" and if I did not pay the four hundred pounds before the term, my goods would be ſold. In this ſcuffle, I had recollection enough to take up the diamonds, and put them into my pocket, meaning to return them the next day; but, in my confuſion, I left one of the necklaces behind,

behind, which I never heard of afterwards, and was obliged to pay Mr. Dingwell three hundred and fifty pounds for, within these two years. When her coach came, I said I would go with her. "Will,"—said the officer, "you *must*; "for I have a writ also against *you*, for "forty-nine pounds. However, Ma-"dam," said he, "I will not oblige "*you* to go, but will wait on you at "some other time."—I was so angry, that I could not thank the fellow, for his intended civility; but, told him, he might go to the devil, and tell his employer, Mr. P. that I would end him for this piece of villainy. The bailiff, replied, "He has done this, Madam, "only to try Mrs. Baddeley's friends, "who are able to pay the money, and,

"who

" who he ſuppoſes, will, in the courſe " of a very few days; and though his " want of money has obliged him to " this ſtep, it will be for Mrs. Badde- " ley's good in the end."

END OF THE FIFTH VOLUME.

THE

MEMOIRS

OF

Mrs. Sophia Baddeley,

LATE OF DRURY LANE THEATRE.

BY

MRS. ELIZABETH STEELE.

IN SIX VOLUMES.

VOL. VI.

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THE

MEMOIRS

OF

Mrs. Sophia Baddeley.

THREE of these ten men, were left in possession of my goods, and we were handed to our carriage; not by his Grace of —— my Lord —— or the Honourable Mr. —— but by the bailiff and his six followers. Off we were carried to Vere's in Southampton-street, and the story was all over the town, in a few

hours. When we got to the officer's houſe, we procured a dining-room to ourſelves, at eight ſhillings a day, beſides our current expences; and we had now leiſure to conſult what was beſt to be done. I thought it prudent to have the opinion of ſome able counſellor, to look into the miſchief we had brought upon ourſelves. We applied to one, and he told us there was no remedy, but to pay the money, or continue in cuſtody till term-time, which was ſix weeks to come; when we might move the court on affidavit, that when we ſigned the bond, it was only for ſeven hundred pounds. Pay the money we could not; and to keep Mrs. Baddeley ſhut up for ſix weeks would deſtroy her. I therefore bailed the writ againſt me, and was at liberty to go

out

out. With all Mrs. Baddeley's timidity, with all her pride, ſhe was far more reconciled to this event, than I could poſſibly ſuppoſe ſhe would have been. I propoſed, therefore, leaving her for a while, and trying what I could do to get her out, by going among her friends. The firſt perſon I applied to, was Lord Melbourne; I went to his houſe, and ſaw the porter, who ſaid his Lordſhip was at home, but not up; I gave him half a crown, and told him I would write a letter, and begged he would deliver it into his Lordſhip's own hands, which he promiſed. On this I returned to Grafton-ſtreet, and found one of the bailiff's men in my parlour. I told him he muſt not ſit there, for I had buſineſs; but he might order a fire in any other room

room he pleaſed: the fellow left the room, and I wrote to Lord Melbourne, ſaying I had ſomething of great moment to tell him, and wiſhed to ſee him. He came to me directly, and when I related the ſtory, ſaid, ſhe had brought it on herſelf, and he would not advance her a ſingle guinea. All I could ſay in her behalf, was to no purpoſe; he was reſolute and went away, and deſired he might be no more applied to on the ſubject. I then ſent for the coach, but was told Mr. P. had taken poſſeſſion of it, and I could not have it. Thus diſappointed, I put on my hat and cloak, and went to Lord Coleraine, ſaw him, and told my tale to *him*. He ſaid, he was not ſorry for it; that ſhe was rightly ſerved, and that he would not give her a ſhilling.

I then

I then aſked him to pay me what he owed me, and he refuſed this likewiſe, and began to ſing. This ſo enraged me, that I left him without any ceremony. Who to apply to next I did not know, and yet I was unwilling to return, without doing ſomething for her. My next application was to a friend of her's, who begged his name might be kept a ſecret, and on this account the reader will excuſe my mentioning it. I ſaw this friend, and requeſted him to point out ſome mode, to enable me to get her out of that place. He promiſed me to open a ſubſcription for her, among her friends, at Almack's, and did not doubt but he ſhould get money enough to releaſe her in a few days. He would give one hundred pounds, he ſaid,

if

if the reſt would follow. Here now my reader will ſee the mean and pitiful reſentment of the *Right Honourable* Charles James Fox. He muſt recollect that this gentleman was one among the many ſolicitors for her favours, but meeting with a repulſe upon that occaſion, was determined now to revenge it; and when the ſubſcription was propoſed, Mr. Fox was preſent, and oppoſed it in the ſtrongeſt terms; ſaid, her diſtreſs, if true, was only what ſhe richly merited, but that he conceived it to be a trick, and an impoſition on her friends; and he hoped ſhe would be ſent to Newgate. In conſequence of this, the ſubſcription fell to the ground. Foiled in this plan, Mrs. Baddeley wrote to the Duke of Northumberland. His Grace was

frightened

frightened, and ſaid, the letter required no anſwer. I waited on Lord Harrington, and ſaw him, who ſaid he could not conceive how a married lady could be held in cuſtody for debt, and that it was not prudent to advance money on ſuch impoſitions; that it was beſt to be eaſy where ſhe was, and try the matter in term-time. I told the Duke of Queenſberry of it, and he was of the ſame opinion; in ſhort, I went to more than thirty of theſe *noble* friends, who had ſo often ſaid, they were ready to devote themſelves to her ſervice, and lay down their lives and fortunes in her cauſe; and could not get a ſhilling from any of them, though I pleaded hard, and took letters to them from her. The ſum ſhe was in cuſtody for abſolutely

frightened

frightened them. The third day after her confinement, I thought of another plan; which was to draw up a letter for a ſubſcription, and try how I could ſuceed this way; I did ſo, Mrs. Baddeley copied it, and by this means, I got near four hundred pounds, by tens and twentys, from the noblemen, below-mentioned, whom I waited on for that purpoſe, and who uſed always to notice and countenance her.

The following is a copy of her letter.

" Mrs. Baddeley's beſt reſpects to
" ———, is aſhamed to be ſo trouble-
" ſome; begs leave to aſſure him, no-
" thing but abſolute diſtreſs ſhould
" compel Mrs. Baddeley to trouble her
" friends,

" friends; hopes, in a very ſhort time, to " get the better of every difficulty, and " to return her moſt ſincere thanks and " acknowledgements to thoſe, who have " been ſo civil to think of her, in her " preſent ſituation."

" P. S. Whatever favour you pleaſe " to confer, it will come ſafe by my " *friend* Mrs. Steele."

	£.		£. s.
Lord Derby -	20	Lord Falmouth	10 0
Lord Harrington	10	Lord Seaford	10 0
D. of Marlborough	10	Lord Villiers	10 0
D. of Devonſhire	20	Duke of Leeds	10 0
M. of Caermarthen	10	Sir J. St. Aubin	10 0
Duke of Ancaſter	20	Lord C. Spencer	10 0
Duke of Rutland	10	Lord Barrington	5 5
		Carried forward	165 5

Brought forward £. 165 5

	£.		£. s.
Duke of Northum.	20	W. E. of Chatham	5 5
Lord Lincoln	10	Marq. of Lothian	5 5
Lord Lyttleton	20	Lord Talbot	10 0
Hon. G. Hobart	10	General Keppel	10 0
Hon. T. Stanley	20	Admiral Keppel	10 0
Mr. Sheldon	10	Gen. Phillipſon	10 0
Lord Pigot	50	Lord Aſhburnham	5 5
Lord Harcourt	10	General Monćton	5 5
Lord Clanbrazil	10	Mr. Egerton	10 0

Total £. 396 5

Here I left off, and waited on Mr. John Damer, who was out of town when I firſt went about; and, on telling him the whole ſtory, he ſaid, "I will "give you five hundred pounds for "yourſelf, to releaſe your goods, and "then you may get Mrs. Baddeley re-

"leaſed,

" leaſed, by ſtanding the trial with " this d—m'd raſcal; I wiſh I could " ſhoot him." He had but three hundred pounds about him, which he gave me, and ſent into Bond-ſtreet, and borrowed two hundred pounds more, and gave me that. " There," ſaid he, " my " good woman, take that, releaſe your " own goods; and you ſhall, through " life, find a friend in me, for you de- " ſerve the friendſhip of every good " man, for what you have done for Mrs. " Baddeley; by and by, I will try and " do ſomething for her." This money I took to her, and ſaid, I would devote it to her ſervice. The three hundred and ninety ſix pounds I had given her, in parcels as I received it. I need not tell my reader how thankful Mrs. Badde-

ley was, and how happy it made her. I continued with her all the time ſhe was in cuſtody, and ſo did my friend, the lady who accompanied her to Ireland. Mr. P. had ſent near twenty times to me, wiſhing to ſee me; and it was thought adviſeable, that I ſhould go and hear what he had to ſay: I went with the money in one pocket, and a piſtol in the other, to frighten him, determining to get her diſcharge, ſome way or other. He ſaw me and trembled; and when I aſked him, what could poſſeſs him to act as he had done, he endeavoured to excuſe himſelf, by ſaying, his affairs were in ſo bad a way as to admit of no palliation; and he was in hopes, by this mode, to urge her friends to ſtand forth in her cauſe, which neither

ther I, nor ſhe, had reſolution enough to aſk; that he did not wiſh to ruin either of us; that he had too great a regard for me to injure me, nor would he be too hard on Mrs. Baddeley, for my ſake; and if I could and would get him five hundred pounds, he would let her out. "And what's to become," ſaid I, "of my goods?" He would only leave one man in poſſeſſion, till I could get Mrs. Baddeley's friends to pay the four hundred pounds. I then aſked him, what he had done with her coach and horſes. He replied, ſhe ſhould have thoſe too, when I could get him the five hundred pounds in part; he would let her have the carriage and horſes, on paying him fifteen guineas monthly, for the uſe of them, and in

this caſe, his own coachman ſhould drive her, and he would keep the horſes at his own expence. I told him this was a hard caſe, but as I could bring him to no other terms, I thought it beſt not to make the breach wider, by ſaying any thing on the ſubject to aggravate; but told him, I would endeavour to get the five hundred pounds, provided he would diſcharge that part of the bond againſt her. He would not conſent to this, but we were to meet the next day, and talk it further over. Mrs. Baddeley was delighted, to hear this favourable account, and aſked the officer, how much ſhe ſhould have to pay *him*. He ſaid, there would be forty pounds poundage to the ſheriff, twenty pounds coſts, beſides the houſe expences, and there were ſix detainers

tainers to be bailed, to the amount of three or four hundred pounds. I aſked the man, if he would take Mr. P. for bail. He replied, I have no objections, if Mr. P. will do it, but I am convinced he will not.

The next morning, at eight, I went again to Mr. P. and told him, on condition he would bail the detainers againſt Mrs. Baddeley, ſo as to ſet her at liberty; I had found a friend, that would advance him the five hundred pounds he wiſhed. His reply was, that though he was ſtill diſpoſed to oblige and ſerve where he could do it, without injury to himſelf, he would not involve himſelf further. "If this be the caſe," returned I, "ſhe muſt wait till term,

"and

" and I will then ſee how much longer " you can detain her." At this he ſaid, provided we would not return to Grafton-ſtreet houſe, but go and live at Hammerſmith, till ſuch time as he was paid the four hundred pounds, for which he had my goods in poſſeſſion, he would releaſe her. I promiſed this, as indeed I would have promiſed almoſt any thing to get her enlarged; and he added, that we muſt give him leave to accompany us out of town, for a day or two, to adjuſt matters, and to forget and forgive what had paſſed. " Well," replied I, " bail her out, and you ſhall have the " five hundred pounds, which I have " in my pocket ready; and, as to all " the reſt, there will be no diſpute about " it." He accordingly promiſed to be

with

with Mrs. Baddeley at one o'clock: he came, and on his ſaying he was ſorry for what had paſſed, Mrs. Baddeley admitted, that what he had done was right, and was friends with him immediately, though ſhe was far from thinking ſo; but, in this affair, ſhe played her part well. Mr. P. ſettled with the officer, and I paid him ſixty pounds coſts, eight pounds fifteen ſhillings, the expences whilſt we were there, and as he wiſhed for ſome preſent to himſelf, Mr. P. adviſed me to give him twenty pounds, and told Mrs. Baddeley, he would lend her that ſum for the purpoſe. This was done, the officer was very thankful, and Mr. P. had the five hundred pounds. He would not give up the bond, but gave a diſcharge in writing;

writing; and congratulated her on her liberty. Mr. P. now told us, that he had ordered a poſt-chaiſe and four horſes, for us and him, to take a trip a little way out of town, to make all matters up, and ſettle a more frugal plan of living, for the future. Mrs. Baddeley did not like this journey, fearing it might be a plan to take her to the King's-bench priſon,. I told her if he did, he ſhould not live to ſee us go in; for, that I had a piſtol in my pocket, and would diſpatch him. I ſaid this to make her eaſy, though I had my dread of the ſame thing. However, the poſt-chaiſe came, and the ſervants of the houſe being all fee'd, we once more were without-ſide the iron bars, got into the chaiſe, and he ordered the boys to drive

to

to Barrow Hedges, near Epſom. We went over Weſtminſter-bridge, and was in a panic, till we ſaw ourſelves out of ſight of the priſon we ſo much dreaded; then we got into tolerable ſpirits, and paid ſome attention to what he ſaid. He made a thouſand apologies for his conduct, laboured to excuſe himſelf, by ſwearing it was ultimately done, with a view, to urge Mrs. Baddeley's friends to ſtand forth in her cauſe, and ſaying he was unhappy it had not anſwered his expectations, and that ſhe might rely upon it, he would be her friend through life. Mrs. Baddeley begged, as the matter was now all over, that he would dwell on it no longer, and ſaid, the only inconvenience to her would be, that ſhe ſhould be aſhamed

to

to go into public again for ſome time. "Oh," replied he, "it will be only a "nine days wonder." He wiſhed to know who advanced her the money, but ſhe would not tell him.

We reached Barrow Hedges before dark and ſupped. Lord Bateman, who was maſter of his Majeſty's hounds, was at this place, and the hounds with him; and, hearing Mrs. Baddeley was there, he ſent his compliments, and if not engaged, would be happy to wait on her. She ſent word, in anſwer, that ſhe had a friend with her, and Mrs. Steele, and ſhould be proud to ſee his Lordſhip. He came, and was glad to ſee her; paſſed ſome time with us, and told us, that if a fight of the hounds would

would give us any pleaſure, he would attend us in the morning, and ſhew them to us. We accepted his polite offer, and he promiſed to be with us at ten. Mr. P. provided an elegant ſupper, and prepared cards afterwards; but we declined, ſaid we were fatigued, and wiſhed him a good night. When we were by ourſelves, Mrs. Baddeley ſaid, "I wiſh to God, he was gone; now, "my dear Betſy Steele, it is your time "with him; do exert yourſelf; let us "hire the coach and horſes at any price, "rather than not have them from him "again, and pray propoſe it in the "morning." Mr. P. wanted us to ſtay here a week, and to let him go to town and return, and ſaid, it ſhould be no expence to us. We promiſed this, to

keep him in humour till he went, and then deſigned to quit the place. I frequently reminded Mrs. Baddeley of the deceitfulneſs of mankind, and that Mr. P. was one of thoſe leaſt to be truſted. She ſaw this, ſhe ſaid, plain enough, and hated them all, except her friend, Mr. Damer, who ſhewed his good heart, by his voluntary beneficence; that it was not to be wondered at, that people in a leſs ſtation of life, could not be depended on, when Noblemen, who pride themſelves in their honour, ſhould act in ſuch a manner; that, ſhe now ſaw the world in it's true light, and would ſeek out for a ſet of new friends, for the old ones were not worth her attention. Our determination was, promiſe what we would, as ſoon as Mr. P.

turned

turned his back, to go directly to Grafton-ſtreet.

In the morning, Lord Bateman came, and attended us to the dog-kennel, to ſhew us the hounds; ordered them to be fed before us, and had them out. He was very polite upon the occaſion, and ſaid, if Mrs. Baddeley would permit him, he would do himſelf the honour to call on us in town, in a few days. She told him, ſhe ſhould be proud to ſee him, and he left us. After he was gone, Mr. P. propoſed a ride; ſaid, he would ſtay with us that day, go to town the next, and return the day after. Finding we could not refuſe, a poſt-chaiſe and four was ordered, and we went ten miles farther into the country,

and returned to dinner. He did not ſpare, in entertaining us, but provided every expenſive thing that could be procured. In the evening, he told us, that he ſhould ſet off in the morning at five o'clock, in order to ſend us our coach and horſes, to ride about the country. We begged he would not, as we would have it in town, at the fifteen pounds a month, as he propoſed.

At eight the next morning, finding him gone, we ordered a chaiſe, and ſet off for town. When we reached our own houſe, a fellow, on our knocking, opened the door, held it in his hand, and ſaid, we could not come in; for, Mr. P. had given him orders to that purpoſe, and he was ſorry he was under the

the neceſſity of obeying him. I tried to puſh by him, but he ſhut the door in my face. The area door, however, being open, I bad Mrs. Baddeley follow me, and finding the kitchen door faſt below, we opened the window, and got in. I now ran up ſtairs, crying out, "Where is the fellow that ſhut the door "in my face?" Two men made their appearance, and ſaid, my ſervants were at Hammerſmith. I told them, they had no buſineſs there, and bad them turn out. One of them replied, he would ſend his partner to Mr. P. to acquaint him of our being there. "Do "as you pleaſe," replied I, "I care "not what you do." One of them, therefore, went out, and the other going to the door to whiſper to him, I fol-

lowed him close behind, watched my opportunity, and some dancing dogs being at that instant before the house, the fellow's attention was caught with these, and I shoved him right into the street, and shut the door against him; then ran down and secured the door and windows in the area. They knocked, but to no purpose. One of them ran off to Mr. P. who flew to the house, and begged to be admitted. I told him, he should not, and it was now my turn to act with hostility. He declared, if I would let him in, the men should go away. I told him nothing would induce me to it, unless he would go and write me a discharge for my goods; that these fellows might no longer be in possession. He went away, and took

the

the fellows with him, and presently returned with a discharge for the execution, which he threw down the area to me. I read it, thought it sufficient, and then let him in. "Now ladies," said he, "I think you have been even with "me, for this trick exceeds all I ever "knew." "No," replied I, "it does "not exceed the bond, which was be-"yond every thing I ever heard of. "You had, therefore, best say no more "upon that subject. What have you "done with my servants?" He said, he had sent them to Hammersmith, to make ready for our coming there. "Did "I not request you," said he, "to stay "a few days at Barrow Hedges?"— "You did," replied I, "but home, is "home, and I was uneasy to be absent.

"We

"We will now, however, move from "this houſe, and let it." In conſequence of this determination, we ſent for our ſervants, ordered waggons, and removed our goods the next day, from Grafton-ſtreet to Hammerſmith, reſolving to abridge our expences; and, as, of courſe, by giving up our town houſe, we wanted fewer ſervants, we diſcharged three.

Whilſt we were engaged in this buſineſs, we had a viſit from Miſs Young, of Drury-lane Theatre, (now Mrs. Pope) begging to ſee Mrs. Baddeley, to aſk a favour of her. Her affairs, ſhe ſaid, were in a bad ſtate, by the failure of Mr. Fordyce, the banker, who had a bond of her's for two hundred pounds and

and upwards, which ſhe apprehended his aſſignees would put in force againſt her, and of courſe her ruin muſt enſue, unleſs ſhe ſhortly paid them; that ſhe had no other reſource than her benefit, which was to take place in ſix weeks. She came, therefore, to ſolicit Mrs. Baddeley's kindneſs, to ſave her in this exigence, by playing for her benefit; and ſhe was ſure, if I would interfere, Mrs. Baddeley would not refuſe it. That her being ſo long from the theatre, and being ſuch a favourite with the town, would enſure a full houſe, and enable her to diſcharge the bond in queſtion. Mr. Fordyce having lent her that ſum without intereſt, whilſt he ſtood his ground, ſhe had nothing to fear; but, as he had failed, the cauſe was altered,

and

and the aſſignees had only indulged her till after her benefit. I expreſſed an unhappineſs at her embarraſſment, and told her, I would endeavour to prevail with Mrs. Baddeley to oblige her, though her diſlike to the ſtage was beyond all conception. The play ſhe had fixed on, was *The Earl of Warwick*; and the part ſhe wiſhed Mrs. Baddeley to perform, was, that of *Lady Elizabeth Grey*. She knew ſhe had never played that part, and if the ſtudy was too much for her, ſhe would expunge any portion of it ſhe pleaſed. When ſhe was gone, I ſpoke to Mrs. Baddeley on the ſubject, who declared ſhe would not undertake it, for the profits of her whole night; for, ſhe hated the ſtage ſo much, that ſhe would never go upon it again, and

that

that I ſhould have told her ſo.—" I " did," replied I, " but ſhe has done " as you did, ſign a warrant of attor- " ney, and will be ruined, unleſs you " will oblige her; and, ſurely you will " play one night to ſave an old ac- " quaintance from ruin; I would do it " myſelf, if I could." " I wiſh to " God you would," ſaid ſhe, " and, let " us think, my dear Steele, what part " you ſhall play." " The only one," returned I, " that I can play, is the " fool, which I have often done, and " to my coſt." This occaſioned a laugh, and ſhe ſaid, if I wiſhed it, ſhe would, but not to oblige any other perſon on earth. I told her, it would oblige me, for I promiſed Miſs Young to uſe my intereſt with her; and indeed,

I had

I had another motive, that operated with me, which was, the hopes of thus bringing Mrs. Baddeley, once more, back to her profeſſion; but, this I did not intimate. Mrs. Baddeley, ſaid, "Well then, Steele, to oblige you, "and you only, if you will give me a "new dreſs, I will undertake it." I told her, I would, if ſhe would confine herſelf to twenty pounds, which ſhe thought ſufficient. I then ſent Miſs Young a note, told her Mrs. Baddeley would perform the part ſhe requeſted, and begged to ſee her on the occaſion. She flew to her to thank her, but Mrs. Baddeley ſaid, "There are really no "thanks due to me, for I deteſt the "ſtage ſo much, that nothing could "induce me, but the perſwaſions of

Mrs.

" Mrs. Steele, and the awkward ſitua-
" tion of your affairs, at preſent ſo
" ſimilar to my own."—The next day Mrs. Baddeley's name was announced in the newſ-papers, that ſhe was to play for Miſs Young's benefit, and this kept her to her promiſe, or ſome new objections would in all probability have prevented it.

A few days ſettled us in our houſe at Hammerſmith, and Mr. P. let us the coach and horſes at fifteen pounds fifteen ſhillings a month, he keeping the horſes, and finding a coachman; but, we were to pay him his wages. The carriage was to ſtand at the King of

Bohemia's Head, at Turnham-green, about half a mile from our houſe.

Mr. Biggs, the mercer, was the firſt viſitant we had after our removal; and, whilſt I was ſettling with Mr. P. was alone with Mrs. Baddeley, and made her a preſent of fifty pounds. When Mr. Biggs and Mr. P. was gone, ſhe gave me the fifty pounds, and ſaid, "There is ſomething that will help, a "gift of Mr. Biggs's; for I am now de- "termined to get all the money I can, "and play a part with the world, which "I have not yet done; for, as I have "ſeen my own folly in refuſing offers, "I am reſolved to refuſe no more." I told her, ſuch an act would ill ſuit with

with me, and I begged not to be made a confident in the buſineſs. I propoſed going that evening to Ranelagh, where, I was of opinion, ſhe would ſee her friend, who begged his name might be kept a ſecret, and who promiſed the firſt time he met her in any public place, where he could ſpeak to his friends, that he would endeavour to get her ſome money. We went there, and he was fortunately in the room; he put a ſum into his hat, and by applying to a very few of his, and her, acquaintance, in about half an hour, collected three hundred and fifteen guineas; and, as he would not ſay who were her benefactors, ſhe did not know to whom ſhe was obliged. On her thanking this

gentleman, he ſaid, it was but a trifle, and had not Mr. Fox been at Almack's when he propoſed a ſubſcription for her, ſhe would have had as many thouſands.

Lord Bateman paid us a viſit a day or two after, agreeable to his promiſe at Barrow Hedges; ſtaid tea; and, on being made acquainted with her ſituation, ſaid, he ſhould be happy to add his ſubſcription, and would not fail to call upon her the next morning for that purpoſe. The next morning he came, and gave her a hundred pounds, and ſaid, he was ſorry he could not afford a greater ſum. Mrs. Baddeley returned him thanks for his bounty; but, his Lordſhip did not forget, on a future viſit,

viſit, to ſolicit from her a reward, which ſhe readily granted; and he was from that time admitted among the beſt of her favourites.

The reader will probably be impatient to hear ſomething of Mr. Gill. He was all this time like a mad-man, but kept at a diſtance by her ſtrict injunction, and a promiſe on his part, never to think of ſeeing her any where, but in the country. She would often ſit down and ſay, "Poor Gill, how I "pity him! He is miſerable I am, cer-"tain!" She received plenty of letters from him, but wrote him but few; not being fond of writing, though ſhe

could pen a ſenſible letter, and wrote a good Italian hand.

As ſhe was obliged to ſtudy the part ſhe had undertaken, it kept us at home for ſome days. She had ſo good a memory, and was ſo quick at learning a part, that I remember her being perfect in the character of *Louiſa Dudley*, in the *Weſt Indian*, in one day; and, that of Mrs. *Beverley*, in the *Gameſter*, in two days; which ſhe performed to the admiration of all who ſaw her. Mr. Garrick declared, that in this part, ſhe excelled Mrs. Barry: it was not a part that Mrs. Baddeley uſed to perform, but ſhe got it up to oblige Mr. Reddiſh, for his benefit, he having quarreled with

with Mrs. Barry, and ſhe refuſing to play it.

She was ſoon perfect in the part ſhe was to play for Miſs Young; and her dreſs, made up by herſelf, on this occaſion, was a rich white ſilk, ſprigged with gold and a number of French beads, made with a train. The ſleeves were covered with gauze, and decorated with point-lace; with rows of beads round the arms, tied in elegant bows.

Before ſhe made her appearance in this dreſs, ſhe was deſirous of having ſome diverſion with a fortune-teller; for ſhe was weak enough, though ſhe would not own it, to place a confidence in what

what theſe vagrants told her. She ſaid, ſhe was now beginning the world afreſh, and, like Abel Drugger, was deſirous of knowing, whether ſhe ſhould be lucky. She according ſent for Jones, the fortune-teller, in the Old Bailey, and gave him a guinea and a half, to hear what he had to ſay. He ran on with a great deal of ſtuff, as theſe people generally do, and among other things told her, if ſhe would walk in St. James's Park, on the Wedneſday following, (this was on the Monday) between the hours of one and two, preciſely, ſhe would ſee a gentleman of a genteel appearance, rather handſome than otherwiſe, of a black complexion, thin and tall; that, this perſon would

fall

fall in love with her, and that she would know him from any other, by his having a gold chain hanging round his neck. "What he is," added this conjurer, "I don't know, but he is some "man high in office."

She was determined to go and see the event of this prediction; I opposed it, but nothing could prevent her, and I must go with her: at eleven o'clock, therefore, on Wednesday the coach was at the door, and we went to the Mall, in St. James's-park, a place we did not much frequent. Scarce had we reached the further end, before this gentleman, with a gold chain about his neck, presented himself to our view, made

a dead

a dead ſtand, and looked at her. He had a gentleman with him. "My God!" ſaid ſhe, "that's the man!—The fel-"low who told me, muſt certainly be "the devil!" This gentleman followed her up and down the Mall, and kept his eyes fixed upon her, but ſaid not a word. Being weary of walking, we returned to our coach, which we had left at Spring-garden-gate, where we got in, and ordered the coachman to drive to Miſs Young's, who lived in New-ſtreet, Covent-garden; but, before we reached Northumberland-houſe, the carriage was ſtopped; we looked out to ſee the occaſion, and this gentleman with the gold chain came up, and begged leave to come into the coach, as he had

ſomething

ſomething of great conſequence to communicate. We were both ſurprized, but admitted him. He begged pardon for the liberty he had taken, but it was not in his power to avoid it; ſaid he had long wiſhed for an opportunity to be introduced to Mrs. Baddeley, and as he was now that happy man, he would explain himſelf. "I preſume, Madam," ſaid he, to Mrs. Baddeley, "you do not "know me, but my name is Sayer; and, "I have the honour, at this time, to be "one of the Sheriffs of the City of "London, (this was in 1773); and "having frequently heard of the ill "treatment, you have met with from "ſheriffs officers, as my office will ena-"ble me to protect you from ſuch in-

"ſults

" ſults in future, you may command " my beſt ſervices." He went with us to Miſs Young's, and was admitted with us into her apartments. On our leaving Miſs Young, Mr. Sayer ſaid, he had an engagement to dine in the Hay-market, but requeſted Mrs. Baddeley's permiſſion to drink tea with her, to which ſhe then gave him an invitation, and we ſet him down in Coventry-ſtreet. He was no ſooner gone, than ſhe expreſſed herſelf to me in this manner, " Did " you ever ſee a more elegant, hand- " ſome man in your life?—He has a " ſoul formed for love, and now I ſhall " not fear the devil; for, his being She- " riff of London, no writ can be iſſued " out, but he will know it, and pre-

" vent

" vent it's being ſerved, for no one will " dare to arreſt me, when I am under " his protection. So bleſs the fortune- " teller! I preſume now, you will have " ſome confidence in what theſe people " ſay!" I told her, that I was ſure, as Mr. Sayer was a gay man, this fellow muſt have given him intelligence of her being in the Park: ſhe could not credit this, as ſhe was convinced he would not attend to ſuch men. " He is " a ſenſible man," added ſhe, " and a " John Wilkes to his heart, which I " love him the better for. I am now " happy beyond expreſſion, and will go " home and dreſs to receive him.—Don't " you think him handſome?"—I told her, that I did not look at him ſuffi-

ciently to judge of that, but I thought him an impudent fellow, or he would not have intruded himſelf as he did. That, ſhe ſaid, was owing to his great love; that, providence had ſent him to make her happy, and that the fortune-teller had ſaid ſo: and indeed this was enough, for what theſe people told her, was always law. In this abſurd way did ſhe rave till the afternoon, when he came to tea, and after it, requeſted her private ear. She told him, I was her boſom friend, and whatever he had to ſay, might be ſaid in my preſence; but he requeſted, notwithſtanding, to ſpeak to her alone; ſaid, he would not detain her ten minutes, and he truſted I would not be offended. She then retired with

him

him into the next room, and ſoon returned. When he went away, he told her, he ſhould take the liberty to call regularly once a day, if ſhe would permit him; to which ſhe agreed.

Vere, the ſheriff's-officer, whoſe houſe we were at, was frequently at Hammerſmith, to tell us, that the detainers againſt Mrs. Baddeley, not being paid, he ſhould be ruined, if they were not ſettled; and, under this pretence, got from her a bond for ſix hundred pounds, to diſcharge them; that being the amount, he ſaid, of the whole, and which, afterwards, we found to be falſe, for Mr. Sayer, when Sheriff, ſearched the office back to that period, and found the

amount of the writs to be no more than two hundred and thirty nine pounds. He obliged Vere, therefore, on the receipt of that money, to give her a proper discharge for the bond, he having indorsed it away to some of his own creditors.

Mr. P. still continued friendly in his own way, by prevailing on Mrs. Baddeley's creditors to give her time, though he advanced her no more money.

There was, at this time, a masked ball, at the Pantheon, to which we went, and there met with a person in the character of Mother Cole. Mrs. Baddeley being unmasked, she came up and talked

ed to us, and from her mentioning many of the ladies preſent, we were convinced it was a perſon of ſome diſtinction. In the courſe of converſation, ſhe told Mrs. Baddeley, that ſhe was ſorry to find, by the public talk, that ſhe had been under ſome embarraſſments, and ſhould be happy to be of ſervice to her. She thanked this good lady, and begged to know to whom ſhe was obliged for this kindneſs. Not caring to unmaſk or diſcover herſelf, ſhe took out a card, tore it in half, and giving one part to Mrs. Baddeley, left her, ſaying, ſhe would call on her in a day or two; and when ſhe ſent in to her the other part of the card, hoped ſhe ſhould be admitted. She entered into the con-

duct of Lord Coleraine,—ſaid, he had got into the favour of Mrs. Garnier; and it was a pity ſo ſweet a woman ſhould fall a ſacrifice to ſuch a wretch. She then aſked Mrs. Baddeley, if ſhe was free from any attachment, and at liberty to ſee any male friend ſhe pleaſed: if ſhe was, ſhe would do herſelf the honour to make herſelf known to her the firſt opportunity: ſhe bowed an acquieſcence, and it was ſettled that ſhe ſhould call at Hammerſmith the day following. At this maſquerade, Mrs. Baddeley ſaw many of her old friends unmaſked, who bowed to her, but none took any further notice, except Mr. John Damer, and Mr. R. Conway, who were as friendly

friendly to her as ever. To Mr. Conway ſhe was never obliged for any pecuniary aſſiſtance, but he was always ready to be of uſe to her, in any way ſhe could point out.

On our return home, in the morning, we were ſtopped by a foot-pad, in the Hammerſmith-road, not a quarter of a mile from our own houſe, dreſſed in a ſailor's habit. He came to the coach window on my ſide, and firſt aſked me the way to Wapping, and then demanded my money. "Yes," ſaid I, "you "ſhall have it;" and, with this, I ſtruck him on the face with a truncheon I had in my hand, (the character I appeared in at the ball, having made ſuch a thing

neceſſary

neceſſary to carry), ſo violently as almoſt to ſtun him, and bid the coachman gallop on as faſt as he could. He whipped the horſes, and as the fellow was armed only with a ſtick, we were ſoon out of his reach. This raſcal, immediately afterwards, attacked a farmer, who lived near Hounſlow, who was then on his way, on horſeback, to Smithfield, to purchaſe ſheep; robbed him of ſixty guineas and murdered him. We heard a ſcreaming, but were afraid to go back. The weapon, with which he committed this atrocious deed, was a mop-ſtick only, with a long nail in it, but he ſtruck the poor man with it over the head, and killed him. He was apprehended and hanged.

The

The next day, came Mrs. Cole, and was introduced by means of the torn card. This gentleman, though he did not mention his name, was inſtantly known, by Mrs. Baddeley, to be the Duke of Bolton. He told her, he had changed his ſex, and was now come to make profeſſions of love to her. He next talked of her embarraſſed ſituation, and begged to know how much money ſhe owed. She told his Grace, that her debts, altogether, amounted to no leſs a ſum than ſeven thouſand pounds. The Duke ſtarted at the ſound, and ſaid, "That "is a ſum indeed!" "Yes," replied ſhe, "but three thouſand pounds of it "is owing to my friend here, Mrs. "Steele, who advanced me money, in

"every

" every exigence, and of courſe would " not diſtreſs me for it now." " That " friend," ſaid the Duke, " in my opi- " nion, ought to be firſt paid." I told his Grace, I was much obliged to him for his thinking ſo; but requeſted it might not be mentioned again, conceiving from the cloſe queſtions he aſked, that he was diſpoſed to pay her debts. He enquired, very minutely, into all the particulars reſpecting her ſituation, and ſtaid near two hours with us; then got up, and ſaying, that her debts amounted to too large a ſum for him to think of diſcharging, begged her acceptance of a bank-note, and left her, with aſſuring her, the next time he called, he would aſſiſt her further; but, he never called

called on her any more. When he was gone, ſhe looked at the paper, and found it to be a fifty pound note. "You "ſee, my dear Steele," ſaid ſhe, "how "ſoon even a rich man is frightened! "I am ſorry, I told him that I was ſo "much in debt; probably, had I men- "tioned a ſmaller ſum, he would have "paid it. I am determined I will tell "no one, in future, how much I owe; "for, I frightened away Lord Chol- "mondeley by the ſame means, and I "have never ſeen him ſince."

The next ſtrange viſitor we had, was the Reverend Dr. Bruce, preacher at Somerſet-houſe Chapel, a gentleman on the wrong ſide of ſixty. When he came,

came, he apologized for the liberty, but waited on us on buſineſs of ſome moment to himſelf. He told us, that a young man, whom he had brought up from an infant, and who lived with him, had abſconded, on account of his maid-ſervant being with child by him, and ſome few other indiſcretions he had been guilty of; and it laid in our power to be of ſervice to him, "Particularly *you*, "you divine angel!" ſaid he, to Mrs. Baddeley, ſtaring her in the face with the eyes of a devotee. We were naturally ſurprized at this; but, he ſoon unravelled the myſtery, by ſaying, it was information only he wanted, and the information of a perſon in our houſe. Mrs. Baddeley replied, if it was in her

power

power to ſerve him, ſhe ſhould be happy to do it. He roſe upon this, approached her, and begged that declaration might be ſealed with a kiſs. He ſaluted her, and then cried out in rapture, that ſhe was all ſweets!—"What an odour," ſaid he, "hangs on thoſe lips!" He ſat down, and Mrs. Baddeley was ready to burſt with laughter: ſhe had not ſeen this old gentleman, ſince ſhe was a girl, but recollected him now.—"Your foot-"man, thou angelic creature," ſaid he, to Mrs. Baddeley, "and my young "man, I underſtand, are great friends, "and he can probably tell me where "my young man is; and, if you will lay "your commands on him, for that pur-"poſe, I preſume he will do it, as it is a

" matter of ſerious conſequence to me." The ſervant was called up, and Mrs. Baddeley ſaid, ſhe hoped he would not heſitate to inform the doctor where the young man was, that he enquired about, and to reſolve any queſtions he might aſk upon the occaſion. " In obedience " to your orders, Madam," returned he, " I will give the gentleman any in- " formation in my power, except where " it is attended with a breach of confi- " dence." " What do you call," ſaid he, " a breach of confidence ?" " Giv- " ing up my friend," replied the man. " You will not then," ſaid the doctor, " tell me where my young man is." " No, Sir," ſaid he, " I will not; but, " I will go to him, and deliver any

" commands

" commands you may pleaſe to give " me." " Why not inform the doctor, " that he may go himſelf?" ſaid Mrs. Baddeley. " Becauſe," returned her ſervant, " I have promiſed my friend I " would tell no one; and muſt, there- " fore, beg to be excuſed breaking my " word. The doctor is angry with " him, on account of a ſervant girl, " who is with child; but, no more by " my friend, than by me; ſhe has told " the doctor ſo, becauſe he has refuſed " to marry her; and has thus got him " ill will. He is a young fellow above " a meanneſs of any kind, and would " not tell a lie to ſave his life. If, " therefore, he was the father of the " child, I am perſwaded he would own

" it; and, as he denies it, I will ven-
" ture to ſwear he is no ways concern-
" ed in the matter." " O, Sir," ſaid the doctor, ſneering, " he is, with you, " a man of great conſequence, and you " have a mighty confidence in him!" " I have, Sir;" replied he, " his con-
" ſequence with me, ariſes from the " birth, which you gave him; and my " confidence in him, from his own de-
" ſerts."—" Where did you pick up " this knowledge?" ſaid the doctor. " From his mother, Sir," replied our ſervant, " who is my relation." " Well " friend," cried the doctor, " if you " will withdraw, I will ſee you again." The man bowed and went away. Doctor Bruce then addreſſed Mrs. Baddeley with,

with, "Do you ſee, Madam, how peremptorily he declares he will not ſay "where my young man is!" "I muſt "do the fellow juſtice," returned ſhe, "in this reſpect, and I like him for his "ſentiments; and was this way of thinking more general in a higher ſphere "of life, it would do mankind no diſcredit; for, though I would not encourage him, I could not but admire "his converſation." Doctor Bruce was of her opinion, but yet he wiſhed to know where to find the perſon he was in ſearch of; however, he would write to him, if Mrs. Baddeley would let her ſervant carry the letter. The old gentleman ſtaid tea, and dropping the buſineſs he came about, directed his

converſation more immediately to Mrs. Baddeley; ſaid, he was more in love with her beauty than ever he was before; that, he was not without his favorites, and wiſhed to live no longer than whilſt he could enjoy them; for, in his opinion, the world would be nothing without a fine woman; "and, your "charms, my dear angel," ſaid he, "have ſo enamoured me, that I could "lay my fortune at your feet. Have "you, my dear Madam, any ſerious "attachment; or may I be permitted "to pay my reſpects to you again? "For you may command both me and "my fortune, which is no very deſpic-"able one; and it is at your ſervice on "certain conditions." Mrs. Baddeley ſmiled,

ſmiled, but made no anſwer. " Are " you dumb?" continued he, and getting up, ſaid, " I muſt come and ſee." This opened her mouth. " No, Sir," replied ſhe, " I am not dumb, but with " wonder;" " What," returned he, " becauſe I am an old fellow? Don't " wonder, for age, as well as youth, " muſt bow to ſuch charms as you poſ- " ſeſs. I wonder you are not ſeated on " a throne, or near one." " Fie, doc- " tor," ſaid ſhe, " *you* ſhould not talk " in this manner!" " Why not?" returned he, " Scripture tells us, that " King David had many wives." In ſhort, we all got into high glee, laughed heartily, and the old gentleman was as laviſh of his compliments as a young man

man of twenty. He told Mrs. Baddeley, that he had heard from his young man, of the cruel treatment ſhe had met with, from thoſe ſhe had reaſon to expect protection from; and would not leave her, without permiſſion to wait on her again, which ſhe gave him, in order to get him away. He then roſe and took his leave, putting a paper with ſome money into her hand, which he begged her acceptance of, as a trifling addition to her ſubſcription. The ſum he left was five guineas wrapped up in ſeveral papers, which ſhe took in good part; but made herſelf very merry at his expence, by taking off his manner and his words.

We

We sent for John up, and learned from him, that the doctor was this young man's father; but that he had not a soul in him, to do him any good, keeping him as his footman; which the lad did not like, for he had too much spirit. "Indeed," continued he, "It is "a doubt with me, whether the doctor "is not the father of the child himself; "for he will let no woman alone, that "comes in his way."

At this time, Sir George Warren was a frequent visitor at our house, his lady at this time living from him; and had it not been for the reconciliation, he would have been a great favourite with Mrs. Baddeley.

Lord

Lord Barrymore, having alſo heard of Mrs. Baddeley's diſtreſs, called upon her now, for the firſt time; apologizing for his viſit, and ſaid his motive in waiting on her was, to know if he could be of any ſervice to her in her ſubſcription. His Lordſhip's viſit, however, was not ſolely on that ſcore, he took the opportunity of this interview, to declare a paſſion for her, which, he ſaid, he had endeavoured to ſmother for years; that, he was ſorry for the occaſion that brought him there, but happy in the opportunity it gave him of opening his mind to her. Mrs. Baddeley thanked his Lordſhip for the honour he had done her, in noticing her ſituation; ſaid, ſhe could not but own, ſhe

was

was under embarraſſments; but, that thoſe embarraſſments would not drive her to an act of that imprudence, as to liſten to ſuch things, as his Lordſhip was pleaſed to ſay, from a married man: that, diſtreſs led her to an attachment with Lord Melbourne; but, that ſhe repented it ever after; and was never truly happy in his company, (though he had done all in his power to make her ſo) and, that from an opinion, it was a cruelty to his Lady. "Now, "my Lord," continued ſhe, "this is "your caſe; you have an amiable wife "at home, and I am perſwaded, ſhe "does not deſerve this treatment from "you." "Nonſenſe," replied his Lordſhip, "do you forget Lady Barry-

"more

" more, as I do at preſent; and you " alone ſhall be mine for ever." " No, " my Lord," returned ſhe, " I am de- " termined to be upon my guard in fu- " ture; and, if I do err, not to err ſo " as to give pain to any married lady." His Lordſhip expoſtulated, but to no purpoſe; for ſhe would not hear any thing on the ſubject; ſo he took his leave, and never called upon her afterwards.

Count Belgioſo, the Imperial Miniſter, had always reſpectfully noticed Mrs. Baddeley in public, during her affluence, but never called on her till now. He came in company with one of the foreign Ambaſſadors, and paid her a morning viſit; behaved with great politeneſs

politeneſs and attention, and ſaid, he would, with her permiſſion, wait on her again. She thanked him for the honour he conferred on her, and ſaid, ſhe ſhould be proud to ſee him. He frequently called afterwards, but his viſits were merely ceremonial.

Mr. Foote was at this time one of her conſtant viſitors, and always came to ſee her, when he had ſomething new to inform her of; and many agreeable hours have we paſſed in his company, he being always on a footing of friendſhip with her, till his death. Mr. Coleman, who ſucceeded him, at the theatre, was no leſs attentive to her, and offered her his ſervice upon all occaſions; as did

alſo Mr. Cumberland, author of the *Weſt Indian*, and Mr. Hugh Kelly, author of *Falſe Delicacy*. We ſaw theſe gentlemen two or three times a week, and Mrs. Baddeley ſaid, it was their intereſt that induced authors to keep in with her, that ſhe might exert herſelf in any part they might write for her; and, that it was a cuſtomary thing in Paris, for all writers for the theatres, to court the favour of the performers. Mr. Kelly met us a day or two afterwards, at a maſquerade at Ranelagh, in the character of a butcher; and though unknown to me, was conſtantly laying hold of me, ſaying, "What is a butcher "without his *Steel?*" With Mr. Kelly, we were frequently favoured with Mr.

Day's

Day's company, now Sir John Day, who was knighted on going to the East-Indies. He ſung a good ſong, and was very entertaining. This gentleman was a very cloſe attendant on Mrs. Baddeley, knew how to plead his cauſe with ſucceſs, and may be accounted as one of her favourites. He exerted himſelf upon all occaſions to ſerve her, where money was not in queſtion; and, I believe if he could have ſpared it, would have accommodated her with any ſum ſhe wanted, but he was an expenſive man, with a ſmall income, and being ambitious of keeping the firſt company, made an appearance accordingly. Mr. Day was a patriot, and frequently came to ſee us, in company with Mr. Wilkes,

but not ſuch a patriot as Mr. Sayer; for, we always conſidered him as a well-meaning liberal man. In this general deſertion of Mrs. Baddeley's former friends, Colonel St. John, who married Miſs Bab Blaydon, ſiſter to Lady Eſſex, waited frequently upon her; and, had he not been an intimate friend of Lord Coleraine's, would probably have ſhared her favours; for, he was one of her admirers, and a gentleman ſhe thought well of. As to Mr. Gill, who was once ſo great a favourite, he was not noticed by her after this period, which gave him great pain, as the many letters he wrote to her will teſtify; but, ſhe was deaf to his entreaties, and inacceſſible to his applications, the ſtrongeſt proof, I think,

I think, of the ficklenefs of her difpofition; as he had never done any thing to offend her, and had parted with her, the laft time they were together, in the beft and moft affectionate terms.

But, among all thofe who honoured her with their notice, I omitted to mention his Royal Highnefs the Duke of Cumberland: before his marriage, he frequented a houfe, at the corner of Tavifock-ftreet, in Southampton-ftreet, Covent-garden, known by the name of the Dunk's Head Tavern. From this houfe, his Royal Highnefs fent one day a man, whofe name was Davis, with his refpectful compliments to Mrs. Baddeley, and requefted the favour of being permitted

to wait on her; or, if she would indulge him by coming to him there, he should think himself obliged. Her answer was, "Go and tell the Duke to send for "Lady Grosvenor, I wonder at his im- "pudence, in sending for me to a Ta- "vern; and as to seeing him at my "house, I am too much engaged to re- "ceive his visits." I can take upon me to say, that she never received such an application, or message from any one before, and she was so affronted at it, that she said, she would take an opportunity to tell him so, the first time she met him in public. However, when her resentment cooled, she thought no more of it.

About

About this time Mrs. Baddeley was taken ill, and ſent for Dr. Turton, of whom ſhe had the higheſt opinion; but ſhe was very unwilling to take medicines, and I mention this, to introduce the following anecdote, in order to ſhew the danger many a patient is in, from the unſkilfulneſs and inattention of apothecaries. Dr. Turton knowing Mrs. Baddeley's averſion to phyſic, made a point, when he attended her, of always ſeeing her take the medicines he preſcribed; for he ſaid, and ſaid juſtly, that it was not his viſits that would effect a cure, unleſs ſhe took what he recommended. This gentleman is certainly a good phyſician, and always did her more good than any other phyſician ſhe applied to.

One

One day, however, he prescribed some draughts, very disagreeable to take; she took one, and said, it was so nauseous that she would never take another; but, on his next visit, he bad the nurse give him one, and pouring it out in a tea-cup, begged her to take it, saying, she might take a dozen of them with safety, and he was certain it would do her good. She told him, that the one she had taken, had so disagreed with her, that she could take no more. To perswade her however to it, he said, "If you "will take one, I will take another, and "this purely to urge you to it, convinced that it will not hurt you, but be of "service." "Well," returned she, "on "these conditions I will." He immediately

diately drank off one, and she the other. In two hours after this, she was worse than ever, and so bad as to be obliged to send for the doctor again. He was so ill, that he could not attend her, and begged the draughts, that were left, might be sent to him. Our man carried them and brought back a fresh prescription, which gave her ease. The next day, Doctor Turton came, and told her of the mistake that had happened, owing to the apothecary, or his man; that the draughts which were made up for her, had been sent to another person, and those designed for that person, were sent to her, and it was a blessing it turned out no worse. "I soon found "out this mistake," said the doctor; "for

" for, I had not left you an hour, be-
" fore I was taken ill myſelf, and could
" not attend any one of my patients.
" Had they been ſent to the perſon they
" were deſigned for, it would certainly
" have killed him; and ſo," continu-
ed he, " I told the apothecary, whom
" I reprimanded ſeverely; and it will be
" a caution to me in future, not to take
" draughts again unneceſſarily, but
" be more circumſpect reſpecting what
" I order. It is by ſuch blunders, that
" many lives are loſt." How forcibly
is this ridiculed and laſhed, in the no-
vel of *Modern Times*, which I have men-
tioned before; and when I read the
many ſtories of this kind, told to ſhew
the ignorance and inattention of medical
practitioners,

practitioners, it brought this circumſtance ſtrongly to my mind, and I could not but ſubſcribe to the juſtneſs of the author's ſatire. Mrs. Baddeley ſaid, ſhe was ſorry ſhe was the cauſe of Dr. Turton's illneſs, but flattered herſelf, it would, in the end, turn out to the good of hundreds; as it would put him more upon his guard, with reſpect to the incautious diſpenſers of drugs.

One day, when Mr. Sayer was with her, he aſked her, if ſhe was inclined to have a houſe in London; if ſhe was, and would permit him to find her one, it ſhould coſt her no rent. She replied, if it was agreeable to him, ſhe had no objection. He came the next day, and told

told her, there was a good houſe in Cleveland-row, St. James's, in which Lady Rich lived, and which belonged to Lord Delawar, and wiſhed her to go and ſee it. She went, and liking the houſe and ſituation, he took it immediately. It was a large handſome building, and the rent two hundred guineas a year. He wiſhed me to take it in my name, leſt it ſhould get abroad to his diſadvantage; but, that he would pay the rent. I did not like to do this, but Mrs. Baddeley urged me to it, by ſaying, it was in the verge of the Court, where ſhe ſhould be in no fear of the bailiffs; that, if *I* would not take it, *ſhe* would, which ſhe ſaid would be the ſame thing. My objections aroſe from

an

an unwillingneſs to live under the ſame roof with him, and ſo I told her; but ſhe found a way to bring me over, by ſaying, that if I was diſſatisfied, ſhe would never ſee him more. I am weak enough to acknowledge, when not inſtantly oppoſed, I can be won to any thing. "If you muſt live with this "man," ſaid I to her, "and the houſe "is to be taken, I will engage it my-"ſelf; for I will keep to my reſolution "of never being obliged to any con-"nexions of your's, though my advice "is not to think of it; we have but "juſt taken a reſolution to abridge our "expences, and are now encreaſing "them again." "That was," replied ſhe, "when we had but a ſmall proſ-

" pect before us; but, Mr. Sayer has " fallen in my way ſince, and has " aſſured me, that he will not only pay " the rent of this houſe, and the ex- " pence of houſe-keeping, but every " debt I owe, and provide for me, in a " manner that will make me happy; of " courſe the caſe is different." I doubted whether this was in his power; and, if in his power, whether he would be ſo inclined. " Beſides," added I, " Mr. " Sayer is ſuch a Wilkite, that when " your friends know he is one of your " viſitors, they will inſtantly forſake " you." She ſaid, they ſhould never know it; and, if they did, what need ſhe care for the world, if ſhe was happy: That Mr. Sayer was not only a gentle-

man,

man, but a man of buſineſs, and would look into her affairs, and ſettle them; and, that his being Sheriff, would keep the bailiffs at a diſtance; for he had ordered the under-ſheriff, if any writs were out againſt her, to ſend him word of it. In ſhort, through her perſwaſions, I took the houſe, and agreed to pay Lord Delawar, two hundred pounds a year for it, and to purchaſe a good deal of handſome furniture, left by Lady Rich to his Lordſhip. We no ſooner took poſſeſſion of it, than Lord Cholmondeley made propoſals to Mrs. Baddeley; (as I have hinted before), but ſhe told him, ſhe could liſten to no one, that would not agree to pay her debts. He enquired what theſe amount-

ed to, and he would do it, for he was over head and ears in love. She told him, that ſhe ſcarce knew herſelf; but would inform his Lordſhip the next day, if he would do her the honour to call on her. He came the next day, and being told ſhe owed between three and four thouſand pounds, it immediately cooled his affection, and put an end to his purſuit, and his viſits.

The next applicant for her attachment was the little Jew, Mr. Franco, whom I have mentioned before. He waited on her; ſaid he had heard ſhe had been under a cloud, and came to offer his aſſiſtance, and would let her have as much money as ſhe wiſhed. This was

ſaid

ſaid privately to herſelf; and on her aſking him, what reward he expected for it, he replied, only ſuch a return as ſhe had in her power to grant, and ſhe might have as many thouſands as ſhe pleaſed; "for, dow I be ſo leedle a man," ſaid he, "I can buy all your Lords, and "have lofed you many a year; tell me "den, how maſh monies you do owe, "and I vill pay dem all." "I am "ſure you will not," returned ſhe, "ſo "'tis in vain to mention it." "I vill "upon my honour," ſaid he, "dere-"fore tell me, how moſh monies vill "do." "Four thouſand pounds," cried ſhe. "Vore touſand pouns! dat "be grate monies indeed!" replied Mr. Mordecai. "Did not I ſay," ſaid Mrs.

Baddeley, " that if I told you, you " would not pay it, though you declar- " ed upon your honour that you would." " Yes," replied he, " boat I could not " conceive you could owe ſo moſh: " vore touſand pouns! O Lord, dat is " a monſhtruous ſoam indeed; it is as " moſh as would buy an eſhtate vor " loife." In ſhort, as this ſum frightened Lord Cholmondeley, ſo it frightened away the little Jew's love; and, he took his leave, with ſaying, he was ſorry his fortune would not admit of his doing it. And after this, we never ſaw any more of him.

Mr. Sayer did not live in Cleveland-row with us, but viſited us daily, and frequently

frequently brought his friends there to dine with him, who appeared to be trencher-friends, for they lived as it were upon him; and, he entertained them chiefly with beef-ſtakes, which he would broil himſelf, on the dining-room fire; a ſtile of living we had not been uſed to, and it made ſuch a ſtink and dirt, that I was ready to go diſtracted; and, the converſation of theſe people ran in invectives againſt the Royal Family, whom they were pleaſed to ſpeak ſo ill of, that I have often left the room with anger; and, thought they deſerved a halter for their diſaffection. His whole party was equally violent, and convinced me, that theſe men, who call themſelves Patriots, have not a grain

grain of real love for their country. However, he paid great attention to Mrs. Baddeley, and, in a little time, became maſter of her heart. She proved with child by him, went her time, and was brought to bed of a ſon, whom ſhe called *Stephen Sayer*, of which I ſhall ſpeak more of hereafter. During the time of his connexion with her, ſhe ſhut herſelf up, and would ſee no one but his friends; indeed, all her former ones deſerted her; for, as Mrs. Baddeley's great weakneſs was that, of telling every thing ſhe heard, they thought it dangerous to viſit her; leſt this red-hot patriot ſhould get hold of any thing they might drop in converſation with her,

her, and might put improper conſtructions upon it.

When Mrs. Baddeley lay in, Doctor Hunter attended her, at my deſire; Mr. Sayer being then impriſoned in the Tower, on a charge of high treaſon, by Captain Richardſon; and, at this time, he told us the following ſtory. He ſaid, he was phyſician to a noble family, whoſe daughter, a ſweet young lady, of ſixteen, had been ſeduced by a young nobleman who frequented the houſe, and was unfortunately with child; that the matter was kept a ſecret from all, but her maid and him, whom ſhe made a confidante in the buſineſs; that, ſhe carried on the deception till the time of her

her lying by, complaining of a pain in her bowels; and absolutely kept her bed four months, that the alteration of her person might not be noticed. "Out "of compassion to this young lady," said the Doctor, "I was induced to fa-- "vour the deception, but requested, "when her labour came on, that she "would not cry out; as I would not "have it known, that I carried on such "a matter clandestinely, for a thousand "guineas. I advised her to complain, "occasionally, of the cramp in her sto- "mach, which would be a plea for "sending for me suddenly, when her "pains came on. She followed my di- "rections in this, and I was with her at "the critical juncture. 'For God's sake,

'Miss,'

'Miſs,' ſaid I, 'make no noiſe,' but "ſhe bawled out, 'I will make a noiſe, 'for I can't help it.' "And though I "begged her, on my knees, to ſmo-"ther her pains, and be ſilent, leſt we "ſhould be all expoſed; ſhe began "ſhrieking and ſcreaming in the moſt "violent manner; breaking out at in-"tervals, 'I will make a noiſe, and 'cry out, in ſpite of the Doctor!'— "Theſe cries brought my Lady, her "mother, into the room, and the whole "ſecret was out. I never," continued he, "was ſo frightened in my life, and "I vowed, from that minute, I would "never keep any woman's ſecret a-"gain."

That

That I may not be ſuppoſed to injure the character of Mr. Sayer, by ſaying that he was diſaffected to the preſent Royal Family, I will tell the reader, that by the death of Mrs. Ann Harding, in May, 1786, widow of John Harding, Eſq. of Charter-houſe, Honiton, in Somerſetſhire, and who had been Sheriff of that county, I became poſſeſſed of ſundry papers, and, among the reſt, a parcel of letters written to him by Mr. Stephen Sayer, of which the following is a copy of part of one of them.

London, 23 *March*, 1771.

" Dear Sir,

" We are likely to have ſome " ſerious matters, of the political kind " 'ere

" 'ere long. Wilkes has brought the
" Commons into a damnable dilemma,
" by attacking his two old friends, the
" K—g, and Lord Hallifax. I hope
" there remains ſome ſpirit of Engliſh-
" men among us, which will ſoon blaſt
" the men who are ſtriving to ruin this
" great kingdom. That you and I may
" live to ſhare the ſpoils of thoſe raſ-
" cals, and be rewarded with what we
" really merit, is my ardent wiſh, when
" I bid you adieu!

" Your's moſt reſpectfully,

" Stephen Sayer."

One evening we went to Hammer-ſmith, and meant to ſtay there all night, but Mrs. Baddeley ſuddenly altering her

mind, was determined to return to town. It was then ten o'clock at night, in the ſummer time; we accordingly ſent our ſervant to the King of Bohemia's-Head, where our carriage ſtood, and ordered our coachman to bring it; he ſent word, the horſes were littered up, and he ſhould not take them out that night. This angered us much, and, late as it was, I begged ſhe would accompany me, and I would anſwer for it, ſhe ſhould have the coach. She went with me, and when we came to the inn, I entered the tap-room, where our coachman was, and aſked, with a loud voice, "Where is this "fellow, that dare refuſe to bring our "coach when we order him?" He ſtood up, but ſaid nothing; on which, I bad him

him directly put the horſes to, for I would have the carriage immediately. He grumbled, went to the ſtable, and returned, ſaying he had loſt the key; at this I went, and with my foot burſt open the door. "Now ſir," ſaid I, "harneſs the horſes, and take them "out." He did it, but very ſlowly, and on this, I gave the hoſtler a ſhilling to aſſiſt him, and the carriage was ſoon brought to the door of the inn. I then called to Mrs. Baddeley, begged her to get into the coach, and leave me to manage the fellow. She got in, and the coachman was ready to get upon his box. "Where is my phaeton harneſs?" ſaid I to him. "In the ſtable, Madam," replied he. "Give me your whip," re-

turned I, "and go and fetch it, I ſhall "want it in town, to-morrow." He gave me his whip, and went to the ſtable for it; and whilſt he was gone, I mounted the box, and drove off the coach, as faſt as the horſes could gallop; not to our houſe, at Hammerſmith-hope, but to the George, at Chiſwick, where I ſtopped, and got into the coach. The maſter of the houſe hearing a carriage ſtop, came out. I told him I had ſent our coachman, who drove us there, back to our houſe on buſineſs, and begged him to put up the carriage, in ſome place where it could be locked up, and give me the key, and to take care of the horſes for that night. He did ſo, gave me the key, and ſaid I might depend

pend on his care of them. I then ordered a poſt-chaiſe, and we went to town. The next morning Mr. P. called, with a, "Well ladies, I hear you have turned coachmen! "Yes," replied I, "and that fellow of your's, ſhall "no more drive us, for his impudence." "Where is the coach?" ſaid he. "Safe enough," replied I, "where you "will never ſee it again. You thought "proper to take the carriage from us, "very unjuſtifiably, and now it is in "my poſſeſſion again, I mean to keep "it, and not pay you any thing for the "uſe of it." He ſaid, he would ſhortly convince us to the contrary, and left us. Mrs. Baddeley was pleaſed beyond meaſure, at what I had done; and a com-

miſſion of bankruptcy being taken out a few days after, againſt Mr. P. put an end to his connexions with us. We had now many debts to encounter with; as thoſe who had ſued him for his notes, given in behalf of Mrs. Baddeley, called upon her for payment; for when his commiſſion took place, there were debts unpaid, to the amount of one thouſand ſeven hundred pounds: ſome of her creditors indulged her with time to pay them; others took out writs againſt her, which Mr. Sayer, by virtue of his office, prevented being ſerved; and our houſe being in the verge of the court, we were tolerably at eaſe.

Mr.

Mr. Sayer having directed his deputy Sheriff always to send him word, when any writs were out against Mrs. Baddeley, the following note proves this fact, it being a true copy.

" Mr. Sayer presents his compli-
" ments to Mrs. Baddeley, and ac-
" quaints his dear love, that he has
" taken the liberty of sending to Mr.
" Reynolds, who writes, that there are
" two writs out against her; one by
" Laws.—He begs Mrs. B. would not
" think of going to the masquerade to-
" night: he will come to her about
" 11 o'clock, and spend the evening
" with her.

" If

" If Mrs. B. has three tickets " to ſpare, Mr. S. begs ſhe will ſend " them."

Friday, 6 o'clock.

The day now arrived, when Mrs. Baddeley was to play for Miſs Young; and Mr. Sayer, leſt ſhe ſhould meet with any interruption or affront from bailiffs, determined to go with her; as by giving him the writs, when in her company, he ſhould be fixed with them, and ſhe would remain unmoleſted; and I took good care, to have a number of Mrs. Baddeley's friends preſent to applaud her, in order to bring about an engagement. When ſhe made her appearance upon the ſtage, the applauſe from

from all parts of the houſe, was ſo great and ſo loud, that it was more than ten minutes before ſhe could begin. She played her part well, and was applauded at every pauſe ſhe made. Mr. Garrick was preſent, and came to me, and ſaid he was happy to ſee her ſo well received, and continue ſo great a favourite with the town. "You muſt "prevail with her," added he, "to re-"turn to us; it is an eaſy matter for "you to do it, if you will." "No, "Sir;" replied I, "the matter is not ſo "eaſy as you imagine, for ſhe has taken "a diſlike to the ſtage; and, nothing "but a wiſh to ſerve Miſs Young "in her embarraſſed ſituation, would "have induced her to have performed "now."

" now." He ſaid, he would give her an advanced ſalary; that, before ſhe had only fourteen guineas a week, and found her own cloaths; but, now he would give her the ſame ſum, and find her cloaths agreeable to her own choice. I told him, I would do all in my power to perſwade her, but could not promiſe him ſucceſs. He preſſed me much upon this ſubject, and begged he might hear from me in a day or two.

As ſoon as the play was over, Mr. Sayer begged her to accompany him into the front boxes, where there was a ſeat or two vacant, by ſome perſons going away; for the houſe had been as full as it could hold, (pit and boxes laid together.)

together.) Miſs Young thanked her for her kindneſs, and invited us to ſupper; but we declined. Her going into the front-boxes with Mr. Sayer, ſhewed her friends who it was ſhe then noticed, which hurt her much in their opinion. Mr. Sayer was not liked by them, and he took no ſmall pains to convince the public, that he was in her eſteem, by converſing with her the whole time, taking hold of her hand, and handing her through all her friends, from the box to her carriage, where he got in with her, and attended her home. I was with Mr. Garrick, and had ſent her word not to wait for me, as I would return in a chair. Mr. Garrick told me, he had heard from a gentleman, that there

there were bailiffs at every door, waiting to arreſt Mrs. Baddeley and me. I told him, they might arreſt her, but could not arreſt me; unleſs it was for a note of two hundred pounds, which I had given jointly with Mr. P. to diſcharge a debt ſhe owed. Mr. Garrick ſaid, that the attorney was with the bailiffs, and if I wiſhed it, he would go and enquire into it. He did, and brought me word it was for two hundred pounds. "Now," ſaid Mr. Garrick, "if you will do as I "direct you, you will get away ſafe; "which is, to dreſs yourſelf in a ſuit of "men's cloaths. There is a ſuit in "which the *Iriſh Widow* is performed; "I fancy they will fit you, and I would "have you put them on." I took his advice,

advice, dreſſed myſelf in them, (they fitted me well) clubbed my hair, took a ſword in my hand, and walked through them all undiſcovered; when out of the houſe, I ran for it, and met with no interruption, but from ladies of the town, in the Strand, who laid hold of me, and I was obliged to fly to my pocket to diſengage myſelf. No coach or chair was to be got, and I was obliged to walk home. When I reached my own houſe, being in good ſpirits, I knocked at the door, and aſked for Mrs. Baddeley. My ſervant, who did not know me, ſaid ſhe was at home, but engaged, and could not be ſeen. I ſent in word that my name was Conway, and I had ſome buſineſs from my brother to com-

municate: I knew this was a name that would gain me admittance, and it did. I was ordered up into the drawing-room, where ſhe came to me, and I made my bow; but did not ſpeak a word. She aſked me my buſineſs, and I laid hold of her; this ſo frightened her, that ſhe ſcreamed as for life; ſo that the Sheriff ran up to her aſſiſtance, who in me found no rival, for he inſtantly knew me; and ſuch a laugh it occaſioned, that the ſudden tranſition from fear to joy, almoſt overcame Mrs. Baddeley. When I related the ſtory, ſhe ſaid, ſhe ſhould ever love Mr. Garrick for his attention; and, when I told her of the propoſal he made for her returning to the theatre, ſhe ſaid, "Send

"him

" him word, that I will play for him,
" purely for his kindneſs to you."

Having thus prevailed on Mrs. Baddeley to return to her profeſſion, I was unwilling ſhe ſhould ſubmit to the arbitrary diſpoſition of Mr. Garrick; and wiſhed her to ſee whether ſhe could get an engagement at Covent-garden. For, Mr. Garrick, though a polite man in other reſpects, from an idea that a manager muſt either ride, or be ridden, was a very tyrant behind the ſcenes: ſhe ſaid, therefore, ſhe would ſound Mr. Harris, the manager of Covent-garden Theatre; and, if ſhe found him diſpoſed to engage, ſhe ſhould be able to make better terms with Mr. Garrick.

She wiſhed me, therefore, to call on Mr. Harris, which I did, and not ſeeing him, I left a note, ſaying Mrs. Baddeley begged to ſpeak with him. He politely called on her the next day; when ſhe told him, ſhe had ſome little inclination of playing again, and was deſirous of conſulting him upon the occaſion. He was happy, he ſaid, to hear that ſhe was of that mind, and if agreeable to her, would engage her for the next ſeaſon; as the preſent one, being too much advanced, the parts filled up, and the benefits coming on, would not be worth her notice. Mr. Harris, like the reſt of mankind, in this viſit, was ſtruck with Mrs. Baddeley, could not help expreſſing his ſentiments

on

on the occaſion, and ſtaid with her two hours. He called once or twice after this; but her engaging with Mr. Garrick, as will be ſhewn, put an end to his viſits; for, as I was fearful, that delaying the engagement might alter her mind, I ſaid, I would apply to Mr. Garrick; as not acting till the next ſeaſon, would be only loſing of time. The next morning, therefore, I ſent to him, and he was preſently with us; when taking Mrs. Baddeley by the hand, ſaid, "You beautiful Run-away, why "did you leave us?"—The terms were again repeated, on which ſhe was to play; and after expreſſing himſelf happy in having her again, he left us. Mrs. Baddeley ſaid, ſhe could have cried for

joy, to find herſelf ſo well received by all her old friends. "Now, Mrs. Steele, "you ſhall ſee," ſaid ſhe, "I will re- "turn to my buſineſs, and will be "happy with Mr. Sayer and you."— Mr. Sayer was pleaſed with this engagement, and more particularly, as Mr. Garrick ſolicited it himſelf; which would give her an opportunity of keeping him in order. I loſt no time, but went to Mr. Garrick the next day, and haſtened the engagement; I breakfaſted with him, and he ſent for his attorney, and ordered the agreements to be inſtantly prepared, ſaying, he had ſome new pieces coming out, in which ſhe would ſhine.

In

In a ſhort time after this, ſhe appeared again upon the ſtage; but the attention Mr. Sayer paid her in public, kept every former friend from her, but ſuch as could be introduced to him, which were not perſons of faſhion; ſo that none of thoſe who uſed to call upon her, ever left their names, or ſpoke to her in public; for ſhe was never abroad without him. Lady Townſhend, however, took the liberty to ſend to Mr. Sayer, to requeſt the uſe of his gold chain, to go to a maſquerade in, as her dreſs required ſuch an ornament, and he lent it to her. We went alſo to this entertainment, and Mr. Sayer appeared in the character of Mungo. He obſerved to Mrs. Baddeley, as Lady Townſhend paſſed him,

that

that ſhe was the only woman, except herſelf, that he had any partiality for; and that, if it was poſſible, he would decorate his Lordſhip's temples with ſome curled ornaments. "For," added he, "it will be only tit for tat, as Lord "Townſhend was treacherous and baſe "enough to rob his ſon, Lord Ferrers, "of his Lady." Mrs. Baddeley took Lord Townſhend's part, and ſaid, it was a proof that ſhe liked the other beſt, by marrying him. "But," added ſhe, "if *you* run after Lady Townſhend, *I* "will go and ſee my Lord; and then "I ſhall be even with you."

On our return home from this maſquerade, we were told, that a lady had been

been at our houſe, and made ſuch a noiſe and diſturbance at the door, that ſhe got a mob round her; and had it not been for my brother, who called to ſee me at the ſame time, all the windows would have been broken. This woman ſaid, ſhe was the wife of a gentleman whom Mrs. Baddeley kept from her, and that he was then in the houſe. The ſtory ſo enraged the mob, that they ſwore they would pull the houſe down, if ſhe was not let in. The maids declared there was no man in the houſe; but, when my brother came, he aſked her who her huſband was. She ſaid, "Mr. Sayer, the Sheriff." "If you "*are* his wife," ſaid my brother, "it "would be more prudent in you to go "home,

" home, than make ſuch a diſturbance " in the ſtreet, at this time of night." She then began to abuſe him; and, as ſhe would not go away, he charged the watch with her, and ſent her to the round-houſe; and ſhe was, the next morning, bound over not to come to Cleveland-row again. This made Mr. Sayer ſtare not a little; he declared he was not married, and could not divine who the woman could be. In the morning came my brother, and told us all that paſſed; ſaid, the woman called herſelf Mrs. Pearſon, and he found ſhe lived in Berner's-ſtreet, Oxford-road, and had lived there ſix years in good credit, in a houſe of her own: that Mr. Sayer got acquainted with her at a time

time he was in great diſtreſs; that ſhe took him in, received him as her huſband, and cloathed him; that, ſhe had lent him money, and had ſold out her little fortune to ſet him up as a banker, and could not get a ſingle guinea back; that he had ruined her, and now forſook her; and, that two gentlemen, who lived in the ſame ſtreet, came to her aſſiſtance, and were bound for her.—"She is a moſt violent woman," continued my brother, "and ſtruck me ſeveral "times, as I was going with her to the "watch-houſe." I obſerved to Mrs. Baddeley, that if Mr. Sayer had ſo ſerved her, he was a villain; and I would tell him ſo, if he came in my way.

Mr.

Mr. Sayer, on being told of this, ſaid it was all lies, and Mrs. Baddeley believed him. He now propoſed to find ſome means of ſettling her affairs, and aſked her permiſſion to wait on Lord Melbourne, and try what he could get from him. She conſented to this; he went, and ſaw his Lordſhip; and, as he reported to us, prevailed on him to advance her three hundred pounds, which ſum of money he appropriated to his own uſe; for Mrs. Baddeley never ſaw a ſhilling of it. He went alſo to many of her friends, but what he got I never knew; for he kept the whole to himſelf, and did not pay a ſingle debt ſhe owed. During this connexion, he frequently requeſted Mrs. Baddeley to

get

get ſome of his notes changed into money, which ſhe did by buying ſome trifle, ſuch as a pound of tea, &c. and gave him the remainder. Mr. White, the tea-man, in Pall-Mall, changed a great many of them. Many a hundred pounds did we thus convert into caſh. Mrs. Baddeley's money was now gone, and ſhe did not know what to do, as ſhe was unwilling to aſk him for any. I told her, he had lived on her long enough, and I ſaw no impropriety in doing it. "I would have you aſk him," ſaid I, "for fifty pounds of your own "money, which he received of Lord "Melbourne; *that* you have a right to, "as he does not pay it away; for, I "have no money to lend you, and how

" the two hundred pounds will be paid, " for which the writ is out, God only " knows." " Oh," replied ſhe, " don't " be uneaſy about that, Mr. Sayer ſays " he will bail it." I told her, I would not accept his bail; and though I was a married woman, and could get off from paying it, I was ſo ſick of law, that I would rather borrow the money, than not do it. I paid it in a few days after, and Mr. Sayer was angry, and ſaid, I might have lent the money I borrowed to Mrs. Baddeley, and not have thrown it away ſo fooliſhly. He then aſked me, how much Mrs. Baddeley owed me. I told him, when I ſaw he was diſpoſed, and ready to pay me, I would let him know, but not till then; and aſked him,

if

if he would pay me any part out of what he received from Lord Melbourne. He was not pleaſed with this; and, I therefore told him, as he did not ſeem to make a good uſe of the money he had of her's, he had better give it to me, and I would diſpoſe of it for her; or if with that ſum, and any money he had to ſpare, he would pay off a bond I had of Mrs. Baddeley's, I would give her a receipt for nine hundred pounds, which ſhe owed me, beſides the bond. "Will "you?" ſaid he. "Yes," I replied, "this inſtant." "Well then," returned he, "I will conſider of it."—I told him, whether he paid or not, it was not very material, as I loved Mrs. Baddeley, and did not aſk her for it; of

courſe it did not concern him. I went up to Mrs. Baddeley, who was then dreſſing, and acquainted her with it, and ſhe was of my opinion, that he had no buſineſs with any private concerns between me and her. I adviſed her to aſk Sayer for ſome of the money he received of Lord Melbourne; ſhe did, and his anſwer was, "I ſee, Mrs. Steele "has ſet you on to aſk this, but "I ſhall not do it; I expect, ſhortly, "to get ſome more from other friends "of your's, and will keep this till I "can make up a pretty round ſum, and "pay it among your creditors; of courſe "I will not part with a guinea:" and herein he kept both his word and the money.

I am

I am not able to expreſs, how diſagreeable this man became to me. His want of attention, his mode of conduct, and his manner of treating Mrs. Baddeley, was ſo different to what ſhe and I had experienced, that it quite ſickened *me*, who had nothing to do with him, but as an acquaintance. Mrs. Baddeley, before ſhe knew him, was treated by all her faſhionable friends and acquaintance, as a perſon of their own rank; but this man called and ordered her about, and bad her do this and that for him, as if ſhe had been his ſervant. He uſed to ſay, that he hated ſervants about his perſon; was affectedly nice, and would have no one to wait on him but her.

Mr. P's Bankruptcy, as I before obſerved, brought many of Mrs. Baddeley's creditors upon her; and ſhe had no reſources to apply to for payment, but the three hundred pounds Mr. Sayer got from Lord Melbourne, and which he would not part with. Several writs were, therefore, taken out againſt her, but Mr. Sayer bailed them all, and thus prevented her being arreſted; ſo far indeed he ſerved her: but, the expences of houſe-keeping he bore no part of, and they were not ſmall. As her money, therefore, was gone, both ſhe and I were obliged to have recourſe to our cloaths, and ſend them to the pawn-broker's. We were ſoon weary of this, and Mr. Sayer bringing his acquaintance often

often to dinner with us, I was forced to acquaint him with our ſituation, and ſay, that ſome alteration muſt take place, for I could ſupport the houſe no longer. He told me, that he had a plan in view, which would make us both happy, and for the preſent gave me one of his twenty pounds ſhop-notes, and begged me to get it changed, with a perſon who would not carry it immediately for payment, but where it was likely to circulate; for, he took ſome pains to circulate ſuch notes, in order to eſtabliſh the credit of his banking-houſe, which he had lately opened. I ſent it to a friend of mine, who did not carry it for payment for ſome time; this pleaſed him, and he ſaid, we ſhould have as many

many more of them as we had occaſion for; provided we would contrive that they ſhould not be ſent immediately to his houſe, as he had a partner in the buſineſs, and was unwilling to draw out more money, on his own private account, than he could poſſibly avoid.

As ſoon as Mr. Sayer found that his pocket was touched, he took very great liberties, and aſſumed a power in the houſe he never thought of before; and in a few days told us, that to ſave expences, he would live wholly with us; "and, I mean," ſaid he, "to ſleep "here to-night." Mrs. Baddeley made no anſwer. Soon after he went out, when I ſpoke my mind freely to her, and

and told her, I was determined, that if Mr. Sayer came to live with her, I would immediately leave her; for, though I owned it would be a hard taſk to part with her; I would abſolutely do it, though it was at the ſacrifice of my happineſs. "Do not," ſaid ſhe, "my "dear Steele, ſay ſo; for life to me "without you, will be not worth hav- "ing. Beſides, my expences have "drawn largely upon your little pro- "perty, and I have no money now to "repay you. I confeſs," continued ſhe, "that I have a love for Mr. Sayer, "by whom I am now with child; and "as, owing to my partiality to him, I "have loſt all my friends; what would "be the conſequence, was I to object

"to

" to his living with me? He would " certainly leave me, and I ſhould be " more diſtreſſed than ever; for good- " neſs ſake, then, reconcile yourſelf to " his coming here, and let us live hap- " pily together." " Never," returned I, " let the conſequence be what it " will." She cried, and ſo did I; but I had made up my mind on the occa- ſion, and was determined that nothing ſhould alter my reſolution. I told her, however, I would ſee her as often as ſhe pleaſed, and would be her friend when I was from her. Mr. Sayer kept his word, and ſtaid all night. I ſat up, and the next morning aſked him, whether his intent was to reſide in the houſe. " Certainly," ſaid he, " it is." " Then,"

returned

returned I, "I ſhall leave it." I might, he ſaid, if I pleaſed, for that was his home. He went to Mrs. Baddeley, and told her what had paſſed, which brought her to me; ſhe hung round my neck, and begged me not to think of going: but I was reſolved. Sayer joined us; "And how," ſaid he, "have you two "ladies ſettled it?" Mrs. Baddeley was unhappy, and told him her ſituation with me; that I had lent her all the money I was poſſeſſed of, had ſold the little property I had, for her ſupport, and had even parted with my cloaths for her maintenance. "Well," replied he, "if ſhe has, ſhe muſt, like "the reſt, ſit down with the loſs."— "Oh, Mr. Sayer," cried ſhe, "how

"cruelly

" cruelly do you treat me, in thus talk-
" ing of my beſt friend, who has ruin-
" ed herſelf for my ſake; I would not
" wiſh to live, if ſhe is not with me!"
All this, however, anſwered little pur-
poſe; I put on my hat and cloak; he
held Mrs. Baddeley from interrupting
me, and ſaid, " If Mrs. Steele is ſo
" obſtinate, for heaven's ſake, let her
" go." I then ſaid, " God bleſs you,"
left the room, and the inſtant after, the
houſe. Mr. Sayer ſtaid with her more
than a fortnight, to keep up her ſpirits,
during which time ſhe ſent to me, two
or three times a day, in the moſt affec-
tionate way, and hoped I would return.
She grew ill, and ſo did I; for my love
for her rather encreaſed by my abſence,

it

it brought on a fever, and I kept my bed ſome days; the meaſles followed this, and rendered me unable to go abroad for ſome time. She alſo was confined to her bed, but as ſoon as ſhe was able to go out, came to ſee me, and again intreated I would return with her; my reſolution was unalterable; I told her I ſhould be happy to ſee her at all opportunities, without him, and ſhould Mr. Sayer leave her, would return to her, but not till then. This pacified her a little. She began now to be ſenſible of my conſequence; ſaid, ſhe was always at a loſs how to act, and ſhould be an undone woman. I aſked her, if ſhe wanted any money; ſhe replied, that on the day I left her, ſhe

had but eighteen-pence, and, that at that moment, ſhe was miſtreſs only of eight ſhillings. I put ten guineas into her purſe, and ſaid, when that was gone, ſhe knew where to come for more. She wept at this, but took it, and aſked me, as all her diamonds were gone, if I would give her a pair of paſte ear-rings, and other things to imitate them, that ſhe might make a good appearance on the ſtage. I told her, I would, with pleaſure, and purchaſed her every thing complete in this way, and of the beſt kind, to the amount of eighty-ſix pounds. I paid her hoop-petticoat-maker, four pounds twelve ſhillings, for ſtage hoops, and always gave her a few guineas when ſhe came to

ſee

ſee me, or wrote me word that ſhe wanted it. My friends perſwaded me never to ſee her more; and, on an expectation that I would not, advanced me a ſufficient ſum of money to furniſh two houſes, which I let, and thus enabled myſelf to aſſiſt her.

Mrs. Baddeley was not, however, with all the love ſhe profeſſed for Mr. Sayer, more faithful to him than ſhe had been to Lord Melbourne; for, ſoon after I left her, ſhe became acquainted with Mr. George Edward Ramus, one of the Clerks of the Treaſury; he profeſſed great things, talked largely of what he would do for her, and by perſwaſions won her over to his wiſhes. He

was very fond of her, took all opportunity of being with her, and though she had no reason to complain of his affection, she had of his liberality. He told her, however, that he would do handsomely by her, as soon as he was able; that he had the best expectations, that the King was his godfather, took great notice of him, and did him the honour frequently to closet him, and that he should be prefered shortly. This gentleman, however, like her former friends, presently deserted her, and she had only to blame her own credulity.

A clergyman, who used to visit Mr. Sayer and me, was frequently at both houses; from him I learned, that Mrs. Bad-

Baddeley would often declare herſelf under the higheſt obligations to me, and ſay how much ſhe loved me; but Sayer being diſpleaſed with it, ſhe could not talk of me in his hearing. This gentleman told me, that he feared Mr. Sayer intended ſome evil againſt me; for, he often ſaid, if he could put an end to Mrs. Steele's life, he ſhould be happy. What could ſtimulate him to this, I am at a loſs to ſay; unleſs it was, that I objected to his living with Mrs. Baddeley. However, when I heard of it, I wrote him a ſpirited letter, charged him with breaking his oath of office, and that I would make an example of him. This alarmed him much, and he was not eaſy till I was reconciled

to him. He came to me for this purpose, with a friend, and sent in his name, saying, he had something of moment to impart, and begged to see me; I sent word, he might then commit it to paper, for that I was engaged, and could not see him. This would not do. He must see me himself, and if I could fix the time, would call upon me again. To be no further troubled with him, I saw him, in company with his friend, and asked him, what he could possibly want with me. He told me, my letter not only surprized him, but alarmed him; and, rather than I should be his enemy, he would make what concessions I thought proper, for any supposed offence he might have given. To enter

into

into all the converſation between us, at this interview, would be far from entertaining to my reader; let it ſuffice to ſay, that I gave him to underſtand, that Mrs. Baddeley might date her downfall from the hour ſhe became acquainted with him; that all her friends had deſerted her on his account, and that he did not ſeem diſpoſed to ſupport her, but with-held from her the little money he had of her's in poſſeſſion; that, it was this gave me offence; that his being with her had occaſioned a ſeparation between us, and had divided me from all I held dear. He was ſorry, he ſaid, that his fondneſs and attachment to Mrs. Baddeley, ſhould be the occaſion of my unhappineſs; that I might ſtill be with her

her if I pleaſed, and that this ſeparation was an act of my own. I told him, that I was too honeſt to carry a double face; that I diſliked her connexions with him; that I deteſted his principles; and, that I would not live under the ſame roof with him for the world; but, that if he would not trouble me, or think of me, I would never moleſt him. This ſeemed to quiet him, and we parted; but he ſtill cheriſhed vengeance in his boſom, and declared, to a perſon from whom I heard it; that, whenever an opportunity offered, he would be even with me. That opportunity, however, never offered, and of courſe I was never troubled with him.

Mrs.

Mrs. Baddeley was with me as often as ſhe could, and I lent her, at different times, a great deal of money. She came to me one morning, and aſked me for the loan of forty pounds. Not ſuppoſing it was for her own uſe, I told her I had not ſo much by me. She was ſure, ſhe ſaid, I had, and hoped I would oblige her. "Tell me," replied I, "the uſe you deſign it for, and I will "go and borrow it." This ſhe ſaid, ſhe could not do, as ſhe had paſſed her word to the contrary. "Then," returned I, "you muſt excuſe my doing "it; for I cannot get forty pounds, "without ſome difficulty." Convinced the money was not for herſelf, but to ſerve her friend, I did not find myſelf diſpoſed

diſpoſed to let her have it; for I had ſufficient uſe for all the money I was miſtreſs of; and though I would have ſtrained a point to ſerve *her*, it did not follow, that I was to diſtreſs myſelf to ſerve her friend. She was a little hurt at this, and I did not ſee her for more than a month afterwards; as I would never go, where there was a chance of meeting Mr. Sayer.

In the foregoing part of this work, I promiſed to ſhew my reader, that Colonel Morgan, then Captain Morgan, got a rich wife, by accidentally becoming acquainted with Mrs. Baddeley, when ſhe was ſearching the ſtreets, at midnight, for her cat. This gentleman called

called on her frequently afterwards, and ſhe introduced him to Mr. Sayer, with whom he became intimate. At Mr. Sayer's houſe in Oxford-ſtreet, he met with a young lady, an heireſs to a good eſtate and a perſonal property of twenty thouſand pounds. She came on buſineſs, to Mr. Sayer's banking-houſe, with an aunt, a woman of family and good fortune, under whoſe care ſhe was. Mr. Sayer cultivated an acquaintance with this family, and, in a few months, married the aunt, introduced his friend Captain Morgan, and he married the niece. The Captain was, in every ſenſe of the word, a gentleman, and I have always underſtood, made his Lady happy; but Sayer, who married the

the old lady for her money, declared as much; ſaid he abſolutely hated her, and ſhould have ſhrunk from the alliance, but that her fortune would ſave him from ruin. When he told Mrs. Baddeley this, it made her wretched; for ſhe loved him beyond meaſure, and his only plea in his defence was, that as ſhe was a married woman, and could never be his wife; and as his affairs were ſo embarraſſed, that he ſhould be ruined without money; he thought he could not do a better thing than what he had done; particularly as it would enable him to give her every thing ſhe wiſhed.

This

This marriage of Mr. Sayer's, ſo affected Mrs. Baddeley, who was then big with child by him, that ſhe became low-ſpirited, and kept her bed. Mr. Sayer now took a houſe for her, at twenty five pounds a year, in a by-ſtreet, adjoining Rathbone-place, in order to be near him and to ſave expences; here ſhe removed, and being much alone, ſhe fell into a hypochondriac ſtate, and could not bear the day-light, nor the light of a candle; nor dare the nurſe have any fire, on account of the light, nor make the leaſt noiſe. At this time ſhe had not a month to go, and was ſo ill, that ſhe could neither eat, drink, nor ſee any one but Doctor Hunter, who attended her daily. By Mr. Sayer's

marriage with this lady, he was enabled to make a very good appearance, but his generosity did not abound to poor Mrs. Baddeley. I was out of town at this juncture, and did not hear of her illness. On my return, Doctor Hunter called on me, acquainted me with the state of Mrs. Baddeley's mind and health, and the danger he thought her in; and said, was I to go and see her, it might restore her; for, at intervals, she would talk, but it was only of me, and the love she bore me; that she fancied herself a supernatural being, and sometimes a China jar, and the like; that her disorder was dreadful, especially in her present situation, and requested me to accompany him, and see whether

whether my visit would work at all upon her mind; for, that, for two months, she had lived in the dark, and almost without food. He told me, Mr. Sayer had sent to him to attend her, but had not behaved to him as a gentleman ought, and, that nothing would have induced him to continue his attendance but humanity; and this would lead him to see her daily, till she was delivered. I thanked the doctor for her; said, I had it not in my power to compliment him for his goodness to her, as I wished; but would give him a ten pound bank-note on her delivery. This he said would amply pay him, and we then got out the carriage, and went to Mrs. Baddeley. As soon as I entered the room, I beg-

ged ſome candles might be brought. The nurſe oppoſed it, ſaying, her miſtreſs would ſcream at the light. Doctor Hunter thought alſo it would be wrong; as going in ſuddenly to her, with a candle, might have a bad effect, in her ſituation. I acquieſced, and went into her room with Doctor Hunter, in the dark. On my ſaying, "My "dear Mrs. Baddeley, how are you?" She cried out, with a tone of deſpondency, "What! Is it my ever dear, "dear Mrs. Steele, that ſpeaks to me; "or is it ſome voice that reſembles "her's? Pray let me ſee you." A pair of candles were brought, and ſhe ſet up on her bed, and ſeemed to enjoy the light. When I approached her, ſhe

ſtared

ſtared me in my face, as if wiſhing to recollect me; and as ſoon as I was known, ſhe threw herſelf forwards, kiſſed me, and clung round my neck. She then told me of all her troubles, and begged, for God's ſake, that I would ſtay with her that night. I did, nor would ſhe ſuffer me to leave her the next day, but would go home with me. By the conſent of Doctor Hunter, ſhe was carefully wrapped up; I put her into a coach, and took her to my houſe; and, though I took her nurſe with us, I chiefly nurſed her myſelf, and in a few days got her ſo well, that ſhe could endure the light, and ſat up through the day. Mr. Sayer ſent often to enquire how ſhe did, but never at-

tempted to come under my roof. After a little time, she returned to her own house, and being in want of many little comforts, and necessaries for herself, and her unborn infant, I procured them for her, and made her a present of them. I went also every day to see her, continued with her as long as my avocations would permit; and sat up every night with her till she was brought to bed. She had a son, as I have mentioned before, and he was christened *Stephen Sayer*. The father, however, though he shewed a proper attention to Mrs. Baddeley in the name he gave the child, was not, in other respects, so attentive as he ought; for, I was obliged to find money for all her uses, and for the support of her

house,

houſe, and paid Doctor Hunter the ten pounds I promiſed him. She got over this tolerably well, and, at the end of her month, only wanted air; to give her this, I took a furniſhed houſe for her, in my own name, in the King's-road, Chelſea, with a good garden; for which I paid forty pounds a year; and all this I did in oppoſition to my friends, who would not have done any thing for me, had they known it. Many of the Nobility, who uſed to call on Mrs. Baddeley, did me the honour, as ſoon as I was ſettled, to call upon *me*, in a friendly way; and their viſits were no diſſervice to me, but rather the contrary, as I thus kept up a genteel acquaintance, without expence. Mrs. Baddeley removed

moved to this houſe, and the air was of great benefit to her. Her child was nurſed at home, but Mr. Sayer never ſaw her above twice a week, being too much taken up with his wife. He made her an allowance, but far from a generous one; as it would not enable her to hire a carriage occaſionally, to go out in; and, as ſhe wiſhed for one, I hired a genteel job-coach and horſes for her; told her, I would pay the expence of it for three months; lent her money for her neceſſary uſes, and went from my houſe, near St. James's, every day to ſee her. Whilſt at Chelſea, ſhe recovered her health perfectly, and ſaw many of her friends; but they were new acquaintance, and ſuch as I was a

ſtranger

ſtranger to; they were of Mr. Sayer's introduction. One day when I called on her, I met there a young gentleman, who ſaid he was juſt come from Bath, had rode his horſe all night, and was exceedingly fatigued. He ſeemed very polite to Mrs. Baddeley, and paid her great attention. Mrs. Baddeley told me, this was one of her new friends, to whom ſhe was under many obligations, during the time ſhe was in Cleveland-row; ſaying, his purſe had been always at her command, though ſhe had not troubled him much; that he was a ſenſible, well-bred man, and ſhe was happy in his acquaintance. When he was gone, ſhe told me, his name was Bate, the Rev. Mr. Bate, Editor of the Morn-

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ing Poſt, now Bate Dudley; that he was a very good ſoul, and had done her many an act of kindneſs. "Indeed," ſaid ſhe, "whilſt I was in Cleveland-"row, he was the comfort of my life; "as Mr. Sayer did not behave ſo "well as he ought, and I had not "you to comfort me. This gentle-"man viſited me, as often as he could, "and ſupplied Mr. Sayer's place. I own "I love him, and was Mr. Sayer out "of the queſtion, I ſhould be happy to "live with him." From theſe declarations, I found out the intimacy they were upon. Whilſt ſhe was at Chelſea, and had a carriage to carry her abroad, ſhe frequented many public places, and took her nurſe with her as a companion.

At

At one of these places, she picked up a Mr. Petrie, a Scotch gentleman, who lived in the city. He fell in love with her, followed her home, and begged admittance, under a plea of having something material to inform her of. She asked him in; and, he professed a regard for her, hoped she was not engaged, told her he was possessed of a good fortune, would protect her for life, and to convince her, that his intentions were honourable, would settle a hundred pounds a year upon her, before he asked for any favour on her part; and begged she would appoint an attorney, that he might put it in force immediately. She thanked him for his good opinion, and the offer he made her, could

could not ſay ſhe was wholly diſengaged, as ſhe admitted the viſits of a gentleman, who indeed had not behaved as he ſhould do, having made no ſettlement on her. He replied, that was cruel, and he did not deſerve her favour. In ſhort, ſhe agreed to receive Mr. Petrie's viſits; an attorney was applied to, who drew up the ſettlement, ſecured on ſome ſtock in the funds; it was ſigned and executed, and preſented to her. She accepted it, but not liking the preſenter, began to reflect on the inconvenience ſhe ſhould be ſubject to; that of receiving the viſits of a man ſhe diſliked, at any time he pleaſed. Mr. Petrie propoſed ſtaying with her that night, and ſaying, as he ſat by her,

her, how happy a man he was, having her wholly to himſelf; the word *wholly* ſo much hurt her, that ſhe jumped up; ſaid, ſhe would never be *wholly* at the diſpoſal of any man; and would have nothing to do either with him or his ſettlement, which ſhe took out of her pocket, tore into twenty pieces, and threw into the fire. Mr. Petrie, who ſeemed to have a great regard for her, was *petrified* at this conduct and ſudden change of mind, and could not conceive the reaſon of it; he would have done any thing to have prevailed with her, but it was to no purpoſe; ſhe would hear nothing he had to ſay; would accept no ſettlement from him, was it ever ſo great; and was reſolved

to ſee him no more; nor, do I believe ſhe ever did. But ſhe received other viſitors, though ſhe took care that I ſhould never ſee them, for ſhe was always alone when I called, and ſeemed wrapped up in her infant, and nurſed it herſelf. She told me, ſhe had received a viſit from Sir Francis Molineux, and Mr. Damer. That Lord Melbourne had called on her once, ſhe having wrote to him, and begged to ſee him; that, at this interview ſhe repreſented her ſituation to him; but, that he ſaid little to it, and left her, without giving her a ſhilling.

Having now done all for her that I promiſed, and by one way or another having

having given her, and lent her, more than three hundred pounds, beſides the ſum of two thouſand ſeven hundred and ſixty pounds, which ſhe owed me by bond, when we parted; I took my leave of her, being obliged to go out of town for ſome months, requeſting ſhe would take care of herſelf, and ſaying, I would ſee her again on my return. She cried a great deal, but I could not avoid going; however, I gave her twenty guineas, and begged ſhe would write to me, and let me know how ſhe went on.

I had ſcarce reached home, before her nurſe came to me, out of breath, to tell me that Mr. Sayer was taken up, on a charge of high treaſon, and commited

to the Tower; and, that her miſtreſs was in ſuch agonies, that ſhe did not know what to do with her; and begged I would return to her. I flew to Chelſea, and found her in ſuch agonizing fear and dread, as would have moved a heart of ſtone. She knew well Mr. Sayer's principles; how many ſevere things he had ſaid of the Royal Family; and feared, as I did, that death would be his portion. She was ſo wretched, that it was ſome time before I could pacify her; when ſhe begged on her knees, that I would never divulge what I had heard him ſay. "I am afraid," ſaid ſhe, "that I ſhall be ſent for; if I am, "I am determined not to go, and hope "*you* will not."

Sayer

Sayer at this time was forbidden the uſe of pen, ink, and paper; but he procured it nevertheleſs, through the means of the Warden of the Tower; and this man's wife conveyed many of his letters, where they were addreſſed. Mrs. Baddeley received ſeveral from him during his confinement. In theſe he entreated her not to be unhappy, for he ſhould not long be impriſoned, as the charge againſt him could not detain him; and that he ſhould be with her in a few days. In one of theſe letters, he ſaid, "If I live, I will bring up my dear boy "from his infancy, to hate a traitor; "and will ſtudy to ground ſuch ſenti- "ments in his heart, againſt the author "of my confinement, as he merits."—

She afterwards ſhewed me this letter, and my reply was, "I ſee he will not be "eaſy, till he gets a halter round his "neck."

I now took my leave of her a ſecond time, went out of town in the month of July, and did not return for ten months. In this time I had many letters from her, acquainting me with her ſituation, and telling me, that Mr. Sayer was a bankrupt, and did nothing for her; and that ſhe was reduced to the neceſſity of finding a new friend, which ſhe fortunately had met with. This friend, was Mr. Brereton, the player, who pretended to have a great love for her; but on the contrary, I ſoon after heard

heard that ſhe was ill, and very dangerouſly ſo, and that ſhe owed her illneſs to him. Of courſe ſhe ſoon left him, and took up with Mr. Webſter, another player, of Drury-lane theatre, with whom ſhe ſaid, ſhe was as happy as ſhe could wiſh; that ſhe would be induſtrious, and that, with their joint earnings, they ſhould be able to live comfortably. She frequently wrote me word of his kindneſs and attention to her, and I believe they were happy in each other. During her continuance with Mr. Webſter, ſhe played conſtantly at Drury-lane, and had two children by him. In the ſummer, ſhe went with him to Ireland, and performed there, where ſhe lay in of her firſt child. The

time

time of their engagement at Drury-lane, drawing near, they were obliged to leave Ireland. She had then been brought to bed but three days, and yet determined to go to England with him; for, ſo fond was ſhe of him, that ſhe would not be left behind. Though ſhe was not in a ſituation to be moved, ſhe ſet off with him the fourth day after her delivery, and travelled with him all the way to London; by which means ſhe caught cold, and was ill for a long time after, and her child died. She and Mr. Webſter continued together for two or three years; when a ſevere fit of illneſs took him from her, and he died in her arms. This event made her very unhappy, and ſhe was like a woman diſtracted. I was

at

at this time on a viſit in the country; did not receive her letter, reſpecting the death of Mr. Webſter; of courſe did not hear of it, till my return to town, which was ſome time after; when Mrs. Baddeley came to me in the utmoſt diſtreſs; ſaid, ſhe was with child by Mr. Webſter, when he died, and, that the little he left her, his friends took from her, and at the ſame time, ſuch things as belonged to her; and, that ſhe had never been able to recover them; that, ſhe lived in a ſmall houſe in Pimlico, for which ſhe paid twenty-five pounds a year; that ſhe had not a month to go, and was deſtitute of every neceſſary both for herſelf and her infant; for, that neceſſity had obliged her to make away with

with every thing ſhe had, of any value; that her great friends had forſaken her, and that ſhe had ſcarcely common neceſſaries. At this time I was in buſineſs, and in partnerſhip with a woman, who did not like Mrs. Baddeley; and, not having much money to command, I could not do for her as I wiſhed; but, all that I could do, I did. I ſent her three guineas every week, and a variety of cloaths, both for herſelf and her child. One day I went to ſee her, and took with me ſome new things I had purchaſed to make her comfortable; for, ſhe had then been delivered of her infant, and was in a fine way to do well. I knocked at the door, and it was opened by a man genteelly dreſſed in black; a

black

black ſilk waiſtcoat and breeches, and a pair of black ſilk ſtockings, with his hair well-dreſſed. He aſked me who I wiſhed to ſee; and, when I ſaid, Mrs. Baddeley; he replied, "Oh, I beg your "pardon, I preſume you are Mrs. "Steele; pleaſe to walk up." He followed me, opened the chamber door, and ſaid, to Mrs. Baddeley, "Here is "Mrs. Steele, Ma'am, come to pay "you a viſit;" then bowed, retired, and ſhut the door.—Having enquired about her and her infant, I aſked who that gentleman was, that uſhered me up. She ſaid, it was John. "What "John?" cried I. "John," returned ſhe, "that lived with Mr. Webſter." "What does he do here?" was my next

next queſtion. "I will tell you," ſaid ſhe; "but, as a long hiſtory hangs to "this part of the buſineſs, which you "will not like; don't enquire farther "into it, for the preſent; I will reſerve "this ſtory for you, till the next time "I ſee you." I could not prevail on her to ſay more on the ſubject that day; ſhe begged me to come the next, when I ſhould be fully acquainted with the matter. I told her I would, if poſſible; and, on her ſaying, there were ſome few things which ſhe wiſhed to have; I bad her tell me all her little wants, and I would either bring them, or ſend them to her. The next day I went to her again, and took with me thoſe articles ſhe mentioned, and many others, which

I thought

I thought would add to her comfort, and found her in better ſpirits than the day before. She then begged me to promiſe, on her relation of John's ſtory, not to forſake her for her folly. I told her, that if her folly would have led me to it, I ſhould have forſaken her long ſince; for that I knew her to be ſo eccentric a character, that nothing would ſurprize me. She ſaid, her imprudence was always, on reflection, a greater puniſhment to her than ſhe was able to bear or encounter with; but, that what ſhe had done, was now too late to recall, and therefore idle to repine at. "On the death of poor Web-"ſter," continued ſhe, "whom I dearly "loved, I thought I ſhould have gone

" diſtracted. John was his favourite " ſervant; and, when his maſter was " dead, he took ſuch a ſhare in my afflic- " tion, that I could not but value him; " he ſtaid in the room with me, ſtood " by me, watched me, and paid me " more attention than I can deſcribe; " and, when he took his wages, felt for " my diſtreſſed ſituation, and laid it all " out for my uſe. Seeing myſelf neg- " lected by all mankind, and having " with me a relation, a woman of lit- " tle character, who drowned her own " reflections by drinking brandy; ſhe " gave me ſo much of the ſame, as to " get into my head." Now, to do Mrs. Baddeley juſtice, I muſt ſay, drinking was a failing ſhe was never addicted

dicted to; for, whilſt we lived together, no one was more temperate; and, I can declare, with truth, that I never ſaw her drink three glaſſes of wine at dinner or ſupper, in my life, nor did ſhe ever taſte a dram. But this woman, ſhe ſaid, prevailed on her to take a large glaſs of brandy, which, together with her grief, ſo overcame her; that ſhe was put to bed ſenſeleſs; and how it happened ſhe could not tell, but in the morning ſhe found John by her ſide. She owned, that his tender behaviour to her had won her; that ſhe did not reſent his conduct, and that from that day to this, he and ſhe had lived together as man and wife. She took ſome pains to reconcile me to this event; ſaid John was

a good young man, did not presume on the partiality she had for him, but acted still as her servant; and, that neither her nurse nor her maid knew any thing of the connexion.

I heard her out, but my grief at heart was so great, that I was unable to utter a word. I cried exceedingly, and she seemed equally agitated. Knowing, however, that she had laid-in but a week, and that it hurt her to see me so affected; I endeavoured to compose myself and begged she would do the same, and to say no more; but, she still went on; "and to add to all this, I am fool "enough to like him, in preference to "all men, and cannot help it, though "my

" my ruin was to follow." She then threw her arms round me, and, with tears in her eyes, said, " Oh! my dear " Steele, had you been with me, no- " thing of this kind would ever have " happened!" I entreated her to drop the ſubject, but in vain; ſhe ſaid, it gave her eaſe and pleaſure, to unboſom herſelf to me; hoped I would not forſake her, for her imprudence, but conſider it only as a piece like the reſt. I told her, that with all her faults, I loved her ſtill; that I could have wiſhed her, indeed, to have acted with more prudence, but that if ſhe could forgive herſelf, I had little to ſay upon the ſubject; that I certainly never would forſake her,

but would think of ſome mode of ſettling them.

Whilſt we were in this converſation, we heard a loud rapping at the door; I went to the window, and ſaw a lady, in an elegant little phaeton, with four beautiful poneys, and two little poſtboys, in blue and ſilver jackets: I mentioned this to Mrs. Baddeley, and ſhe cried, "Good God! John, who is it?" "Ma'am," ſaid he, "a lady wiſhes to "ſee you, whoſe name is Robinſon." "Deſire her," ſaid Mrs. Baddeley, "to "walk up; this is," continued ſhe to me, "the perſon the Prince of Wales "is ſo fond of." She came into the room, and politely paid her reſpects to Mrs.

Mrs. Baddeley, who was in bed; gave her joy of her little one, and on being told, I was an intimate friend, entered on the nature of her visit, which was to present her with ten guineas, from his Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland, with his compliments; and to say that he received her letter, begged her to enquire into Mrs. Baddeley's situation, and to tell her, that if she wanted more, he would send a further supply. She begged Mrs. Baddeley's pardon for not waiting on her the day before, as she meant to do; had not the Prince of Wales, who was then at her house, prevented her.

Mrs. Baddeley gave her a particular account of the ſituation ſhe was in, and the treatment ſhe had experienced, from thoſe who profeſſed a friendſhip for her; which, when Mrs. Robinſon heard, ſhe cried out. "Oh, the ingratitude of "mankind!" And ſhed a few tears, unperceived by Mrs. Baddeley; which induced me to conceive her to be a woman, in ſpite of all her errors, poſſeſſed of the finer feelings: ſhe promiſed not only to repreſent her caſe properly to the Duke of Cumberland, but to uſe her intereſt with the Prince of Wales, in her favour. As Mrs. Baddeley let her viſitant into the whole hiſtory of her amours, Mrs. Robinſon was no leſs communicative on her part. She talk-

ed

ed a great deal of her husband, and spoke of him with respect; and said, though they did not live together, they were on friendly terms, and always spoke to each other, when they met. She condemned him only for extravagance, saying, that he drew her purse-strings too often; but, that as he was her husband, she could not refuse him. The Prince she said, had made a point of it with her, that she never should see him; and as he loved her, to the greatest degree, she could not refuse a compliance with his wishes; but, her husband knowing this, watched her motions, and contrived to meet her, always when she rode out for the air, at which times he generally emptied her purse. She spoke highly

highly of the Prince of Wales, gave us many inſtances of the goodneſs of his heart, in relieving objects of diſtreſs; and told us, that her acquaintance with him, was earlier than the public ſuppoſed, that when ſhe firſt knew him, he was but fourteen years of age; and yet, though he had not then the command of a great deal of money, he was always very liberal to her, and with him ſhe was the happieſt of women. "Many "a time," continued ſhe, "has the "poor dear boy got out of his bed, "when he was at Kew, and come to me "in the middle of the night, at the "inn, at Kew-bridge." "How do you "mean?" Said I, "got out of bed?" "Yes," replied ſhe, "their Majeſties

"always

" always paid ſuch attention to their " children, as to go and ſee them every " night, after they were in bed; and of- " ten has the dear Prince got up after " this, dreſſed himſelf, and with the " aſſiſtance of his brother, the Duke of " York, climbed over the garden-wall, " after mid-night, and come to me; ſtaid " ſome hours, and returned home over " the wall again, before day-light; un- " known to any one, but his brother; " ſo that his affection for me, is of no " ſhort duration." She now begged our ſervant to ſee whether her pages were ready, for ſo ſhe called her little poſtillions; and when they were mount- ed, ſhe took her leave of us, promiſing to wait on Mrs. Baddeley again. When

ſhe

ſhe was gone, Mrs. Baddeley obſerved, that the Duke's bounty was ſmall, but, probably, he might wiſh to be better acquainted with her ſituation, before he ſent any ſum of conſequence. She now began again with the ſtory of John; but I told her, I had heard enough, and did not wiſh to hear any more; that I would conſider what could be done for them, and when I came again to ſee her, which ſhould be in a few days, I would talk further on the ſubject.

This conduct of her's, hurt me beyond meaſure; to ſee her attached to a low-bred fellow, not poſſeſſed of a ſhilling, nor in any way to earn his bread, but as a ſervant; to think that ſhe ſhould thus

fall

fall from all her ſplendor, to take up at laſt, with a man of this ſtamp, cut me to the ſoul; but, as I could not make it otherwiſe, I was obliged to be quiet under it.

In a few days after, I called on her again, and found her well enough to go out; ſhe was to play a day or two after, in the *Maid of the Oaks*. She told me, ſhe had ſeen Mrs. Robinſon a ſecond time; but, ſhe brought her no money; that, as her engagement was near out at Drury-lane, ſhe would teach John to be a player, and would try her fortune with him in Ireland or in Scotland. "Indeed," continued ſhe, "I "do not apprehend, that if I would

" continue at Drury-lane, that they " would engage me; I am therefore de- " termined to ſee what I can do at " ſome other place; for I can be hap- " py with John any where; and if I do " not live ſo well as I have done, I " ſhall be contented." I found it was of no uſe to talk to her; therefore, left her to act as ſhe pleaſed. She never introduced this fellow to me, and as he did not preſume to ſit down where I was, I had no cauſe to complain on that account.

Her engagement at Drury-lane expired with the ſeaſon, and, as the managers did not propoſe a freſh one, ſhe ſought for other employ. At this time,

Mr.

Mr. Loutherburgh, the painter, had an exhibition in Liſle-ſtreet, which he called the *Eidophuſicon*. He engaged Mrs. Baddeley to ſing there, and paid her handſomely for it; and it anſwered his purpoſe well, for ſhe drew a great deal of company. This was the laſt public place ſhe performed at in London; but meeting with a good engagement, to perform in Ireland, ſhe collected ſome money from me and other friends, and took an affectionate leave of me, ſaying, "God bleſs you, my dear Steele, "for what you have done for me; but "ſomething tells me, I ſhall never ſee "you more." I told her, if ſhe would come back to me, when her engagement was out in Ireland, I would do all

in my power for her; and, in her abſence, would endeavour to procure her one in London. She thanked me; but, begged me not to trouble myſelf, till I heard from her; and that ſhe would write to me, and inform me how ſhe went on. She had ſufficient money with her to make her journey comfortable, and we parted; true enough, never to meet again; for after this, we never ſaw each other. She played one ſeaſon in Ireland, and was very much liked; but as the profits of the houſe did not anſwer the expectations of the manager, ſhe, with her paramour John, left Ireland, and went to Edinburgh, where ſhe played for about two years. Her pay there was barely ſufficient to ſupport

port them; but, as she was much beloved by the performers; when her health declined, (for she fell into a consumption), and she was able to play no longer; they, greatly to their honour, subscribed a weekly sum, to afford her all the comforts a sick bed required, and a proper person to attend her. She wanted not, in this worst of situations, the best medical advice, but her constitution was so far broken, as to be irricoverable; and, after lingering a few months, she departed this life at Edinburgh, in the month of July, 1786, in the 38th year of her age, and was there buried.

CONCLUSION.

We have now gone through the hiſtory of a woman, who, in her day, attracted the notice of ſome of the firſt characters in the country where ſhe lived; and though, if great effects aroſe only from great cauſes, I ſhould not have thought her life of that importance in itſelf, as to merit the public attention; yet, as many momentous events have had their riſe in very inſignificant ſources, I am of opinion, that theſe memoirs may not be without their uſe.

It

It is natural then to enquire, what is that uſe, which has entitled the Memoirs of Mrs. Baddeley to a public introduction. Sorry am I to ſay, that the flattery of the age, the treachery of mankind, and the credulity of the perſon herſelf, cauſed her to fall a victim to folly; and, I truſt the reader will agree with me, that, as the pilot who can guide us, with ſafety, through the ſhoals and rocks that endanger our voyage, is to be prefered to him who knows only how to ſteer through the pacific deep; ſo, that conduct which leads to the ſhipwreck of peace and happineſs, is the ſureſt index to point out to the incautious, the many rubs and diſappointments in a life of diſſipation,

tion, concealed under the maſk of gaiety; and, that we befriend the cauſe of virtue, by expoſing the deformity of vice.

It is a maxim, univerſally allowed, that no perſon becomes abandoned in the extreme, all at once; but, that vice gathers ſtrength by a ſlow gradation; as every ſtep taken towards viciouſneſs, weakens more and more the remorſe of conſcience; and of courſe, a victim to ſucceſſive deluſions becomes progreſſively more unhappy, the farther ſhe ſtrays from the paths of innocence.

Had education and domeſtic example made on Mrs. Baddeley's mind, that

that impreſſion they ſhould have done, from the manner in which ſhe was brought up; it would have preſerved her in that line of rectitude, that would have enſured her a quiet, in more advanced years, which diſſipation is ever a ſtranger to. She had endowments of mind and perſon, that would have rendered her a tender and endearing partner of domeſtic life; and, was poſſeſſed of all that any man could deſire, to make him happy in a conjugal ſtate.

That credulity, which was the foundation of her misfortunes, when her unguarded heart was firſt ſeduced from filial duty, and ſhe took refuge from the temper of her father, in the houſe of a neighbour,

neighbour, would have ſecured her a laſting bliſs, had ſhe met with a fond and indulgent huſband. For, the firſt impreſſion a female heart feels for the object of it's affections, is fervent and ſincere. Honour, and the poſſeſſion of a heart, which it is virtuous to avow an attachment to, give birth to exquiſite happineſs. Let a woman enjoy all the indulgencies of wedlock, where honour cements the union; and her gratitude and fidelity will be beyond ſurprize and interruption. She thinks, ſhe ſpeaks, ſhe looks, ſhe acts only for the object conſentaneous to her wiſhes; every emotion of her ſoul inclines towards him; is ſolely occupied by him; there is not a vacancy to admit any thing

thing extraneous, and every endeavour to ſupplant the poſſeſſor of her heart, is rejected with ſcorn and with horror.

But, when ſuch a woman comes to find the happineſs ſhe fondly thought herſelf poſſeſſed of, to be merely a deluſion; when ſhe finds herſelf conſtrained to make a ſacrifice incompatable, with the tenderneſs of her affections, the purity of her morals, or the dictates of her conſcience; what horrors muſt ſhe feel, and what diſguſt muſt enſue! That this was Mrs. Baddeley's ſituation, is as true as the facts ſtated in this work, which her co-temporaries, and admirers, who ſtill ſurvive her, can bear teſtimony to; but which tenderneſs to her

her husband, being in public life, and depending on the favour of the town, has induced me to pass over in silence.

However hardly her unhappy fate dealt with her, in her first entrance within the lists of love, we have seen, that after she lost the protection of Mr. Holland; which she accepted of, in consequence of a misunderstanding between her and Mr. Baddeley; that her heart was not unsusceptible of a warm attachment. The Honourable Mr. Hanger acquired an interest in her heart; with him, that spring which was bent to mutual love, recovered all it's former tone; she was constant and tender to him; and, as a proof of her affection,

fection, ſhe exhauſted all the valuables ſhe poſſeſſed, and ſpent her ſalary for their mutual maintenance; but, *his* attachment not ſurviving her means, he abandoned her to want, and the attempt ſhe made on her life, in conſequence of this cruel and unmerited treatment, puts the ſincerity of her love beyond a doubt.

Having become thus the dupe of mankind, more than once; it is not to be ſuppoſed, but, that the fervency of her attachments muſt have been abated; and, that the leſſons of infidelity ſhe had learned from others, ſhould have influenced her own conduct, in her future intercourſe with mankind; but, her

experience did not ſuggeſt to her the expedient of making repriſals on the other ſex; it went no further than to induce her to act on the defenſive, and keep herſelf from falling a victim to future attempts upon her peace. This reſolution for ſome time ſhe perſevered in, by my advice; but no retreat could exclude the importunity of admirers. Vanity at ſo much attention paid her, by ſo many diſtinguiſhed perſonages, is not, indeed, inexcuſable; but, it was vanity unaccompanied with avarice; for we have ſeen, that, through the whole courſe of her life, ſhe ſeldom was devoted to gain. She ever had her favourites, and her attachments were unfortunately contrary to her intereſt.

Extra-

Extravagance and ſhew were her reigning foibles; ſecure in the ſmiles of the preſent day, ſhe never looked forward to a future one; but reckoned on the influence of the tranſitory attractions of youth and beauty, as if they were permanent and durable. Reflection in this caſe never comes, but with regret and repentance; and, if Mrs. Baddeley had the pleaſures of life at command, for a ſeries of years, yet all this ſplendor was but the fore-runner of diſtreſs and compunction. She lived to ſee the two faces of the world, and the curtain did not drop, till ſhe was convinced of it's ingratitude.

I wiſh not to be underſtood, that in the publication of theſe Memoirs, or in what I have now ſaid, that I wiſh to eſpouſe the cauſe of vice, or folly. A bare recital of facts, as they occurred, cannot be deemed a creation of the fancy, to inflame the paſſions, miſlead the judgment, or vitiate the heart. I have done no more than the moſt chaſte and correct writers have done before me; having only related, what they have depicted. Youth has ever had it's extravagance, and it's folly. I have produced facts with *real* names; they produce facts with *fictitious* ones. I have thrown the cap at individuals; they fling it at the crowd; but, whilſt I level at one, I do not miſs the crowd; and yet adviſe

adviſe the individual not to think, that either he or ſhe is the butt, or ſolitary mark, as in the circle wherein they move; there are multitudes that deſerve the ſtroke.

Before I cloſe this work, I muſt again repeat, that I have neither exaggerated, or miſrepreſented facts; but on the contrary, through lenity and delicacy, have ſuppreſſed many circumſtances, which are as well authenticated, as thoſe which are here ſet forth. It may be urged by ſome, that the volumes are too explicit, and pregnant with *tender rencontres*; but this charge comes againſt the exiſtence of the work itſelf, with more force than againſt ſuch particular exceptions; for,

the fact is, that were they expunged, the whole work muſt be annihilated; and had I complied with this criticiſm, I ſhould have acted like the ſtrolling company, that announced the tragedy of *Hamlet*, to a country audience; but requeſted them, to excuſe the omiſſion of the part of Hamlet, for that night: and although this good-natured audience, conſented to the omiſſion, and ſuffered the play to go on; yet this condeſcenſion did not ſufficiently encourage me to expect a ſimilar indulgence from my readers.

I ſhall now take my leave of them, with calling upon their philanthropy, in behalf of Mrs. Baddeley's memory, and

to

to requeſt that neither aſperity nor cenſure, may engroſs the place of generoſity and compaſſion; but that thoſe who have been made acquainted with her frailties, will ſay, as Lord Cheſterfield did, when he ſpoke of the diſſipation of the great Bolingbroke; "Poor human "nature!" Let them remember alſo, that it is the weaker part of human nature, they have been viewing; a helpleſs, unprotected woman, whoſe life will be a leſſon to her own ſex, and a warning to the gay and thoughtleſs; who think, as ſhe once did, that they ſhall never experience a bitter reverſe to their preſent mad career.

FINIS.

ERRATA.

Vol. I. That Letter at the end, without a name, was written by Mr. Sayer.

Vol. III. p. 109, laſt line but one, for *his*, read *my*.

Vol. IV. p. 200, line 10, for *un-* read *unleſs*.

Vol. VI. p. 96, line 7, for *Honiton*, read *Hinton*.

Ditto. Mr. Sayer's Letter was not directed to Mr. Harding, but to Robert Townſon, Eſq.